

News Release Archive

2000

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News Release

Release No.: 33-00

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Local Ranching Family Honored At USDA Millennium Celebration

WASHINGTON, May 22, 2000 -- On May 10, the Laflins, a local ranching family, received national recognition for over 100 years of accomplishments and contributions to the farming industry. The award ceremony "Celebrating the American Family Farm" was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) as part of the USDA's Millennium event series, which are exploring American agriculture in the 21st century. The event was held in Kansas City, Mo.

The Laflin's roots go back to Parley Laflin, born in 1799 who began selling cattle on a large scale in the mid- 1800s. Parley would regularly walk the 150 miles between his home in Rock Island County, Illinois, to Chicago, driving his cattle ahead of him to market. This was before Chicago had stockyards. By the 1900s the Laflin's operated with 500 cows and worked 40 horse and mule teams. Eugene Laflin, Parley's grandson, started the family's Angus breeding program in Nebraska in the 1900s and so began a new era of ranching for the Laflins. Today, the Laflin herd is recognized as one of three oldest seed stock nurseries in the world. Eugene's grandsons Bob and Lew relocated the family from Nebraska to Kansas in 1962 and continued the registered operation known as Laflin Ranch.

Upon presenting the award, James R. Baker, administrator of GIPSA, said, "The Laflins are one of only three families in the United States who have had continuous family involvement in the registered Angus business for 100 years. The Laflins have a long and storied record of service to this country and to American agriculture. We thank them for more than 100 years of service, commitment, and dedication."

At the ceremony, USDA recognized farming in America and honored century farmers and farm families who have made significant contributions to the farming industry in America during the past 100 years.

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Local Farmer Honored At USDA Millennium Celebration

WASHINGTON, May 26, 2000 -- On May 10, Jack Gibson, a producer and former State Senator from Boydell, Arkansas, received national recognition for his accomplishments and contributions to the farming industry during the past 60 years. The award ceremony "Celebrating the American Family Farm" was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) as part of the USDA's Millennium event series, which is exploring American agriculture in the 21st century. The event was held in Kansas City, Mo.

Upon presenting the award, James R. Baker, administrator of GIPSA, said, "Jack Gibson's desire to ensure and see proper use of this country's real assets of soil and water, and tackle erosion problems in the Delta region led to him being Chairman and an original member of the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission, and President of the Arkansas Conservation Districts." Baker added, "Jack's vision and leadership has enabled many others to achieve a higher standard of performance and we in agriculture owe him a large debt of gratitude for his untiring commitment to his fellow man."

Jack Gibson was State Senator for 12 years serving as Chairman of the Agriculture and Economic Development Committee and served on numerous other committees that provide benefit to rural Arkansas and agriculture. His role as a livestock and row crop producer, banker, and a businessman, as well as his community involvement has served him well. Today, Jack Gibson serves as Director of the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission, which is responsible for disease control in the billion dollar industry. His knowledge and professional actions have built that agency to be recognized nationwide for their successes and partnerships they have established with agriculture. Mr. Gibson was born, raised, and lives today in Boydell, Ark., in the Mississippi River Delta in Southeast Arkansas.

At the ceremony, USDA recognized farming in America and honored century farmers and farm families who have made significant contributions to the farming industry in America during the past 100 years.

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Local Veterinarian Honored At Usda Millennium Celebration

WASHINGTON, May 30, 2000 -- On May 10, Leo Voskuhl, a local veterinarian, received national recognition for his accomplishments and contributions to the farming industry during the past 60 years. The award ceremony "Celebrating the American Family Farm" was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) as part of the USDA's Millennium event series, which are exploring American agriculture in the 21st century. The event was held in Kansas City, Mo.

Upon presenting the award, James R. Baker, GIPSA administrator, said, "Doc Voskuhl's reputation and life long professional commitment has earned him the Dean status of active practicing veterinarians in the Southwest. His common sense approach combined with customer service and proven professional knowledge has gained the respect of all he has helped with his services. He receives this achievement award today because he has affected so many lives and is one of the most respected veterinarians in the industry today. His years of practice and dedication to the cattle industry has affected three generations of ranchers from Florida to Colorado."

Dr. Voskuhl was a member of the first graduating class of Oklahoma's State University's School of Veterinary-Medicine in 1951, started his practice the same year in Kingfisher, Oklahoma where he is still practicing today. Dr. Voskuhl is also the owner operator of a large wheat farm. His specialty is preparing stocker calves for wheat pasture.

At the ceremony, USDA recognized farming in America and honored century farmers and farm families who have made significant contributions to the farming industry in America during the past 100 years.



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Local Livestock And Grain Producer Family Honored At USDA Millennium Celebration

WASHINGTON, May 30, 2000 -- On May 10, the Grimes family, local livestock and grain producers, received national recognition for over 60 years of accomplishments and contributions to the farming industry. The award ceremony "Celebrating the American Family Farm" was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) as part of the USDA's Millennium event series, which are exploring American agriculture in the 21st century. The event was held in Kansas City, Mo.

Upon presenting the award, James R. Baker, administrator of GIPSA, said, "The Grimes family has a long tradition in Missouri history of contributing to this country and to American agriculture. We thank them for more than 60 years of service, commitment, and dedication." At the ceremony, USDA recognized farming in America and honored century farmers and farm families who have made significant contributions to the farming industry in America during the past 100 years.

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Local Grain And Livestock Family Farm Honored At USDA Millennium Celebration

WASHINGTON, May 30, 2000 -- On May 10, the Hanavan family, local grain and livestock farmers, received national recognition for over 100 years of accomplishments and contributions to the farming industry. The award ceremony "Celebrating the American Family Farm" was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) as part of the USDA's Millennium event series, which are exploring American agriculture in the 21st century. The event was held in Kansas City, Mo.

Upon presenting the award, James R. Baker, administrator of GIPSA, said, "The Hanavan Family is an outstanding example of the family farm system that we have in the United States today. We honor them for their leadership, commitment to their family and the community, and their exemplary farm family lifestyle. We also thank them for their untiring and constant effort on behalf of the family farm. The Hanavan's long history of accomplishments and contributions to American agriculture can be matched by few others."

At the ceremony, USDA recognized farming in America and honored century farmers and farm families who have made significant contributions to the farming industry in America during the past 100 years.

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News Release

Release No.: 30-00

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Local Farming Family Honored At USDA Millennium Celebration

WASHINGTON, May 30, 2000 -- On May 10, Phil Givens and his family, a local farming family, received national recognition for over 100 years of accomplishments and contributions to the farming industry. The award ceremony "Celebrating the American Family Farm" was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) as part of the USDA's Millennium event series, which are exploring American agriculture in the 21st century. The event was held in Kansas City, Mo.

Upon presenting the award, James R. Baker, administrator of GIPSA, said, "Phil Givens and his family are to be commended for their outreach and commitment to Native American and minority farmers in America. Their long history of accomplishments and contributions to American agriculture can be matched by few others."

At the ceremony, USDA recognized farming in America and honored century farmers and farm families who have made significant contributions to the farming industry in America during the past 100 years.

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Local Farm Broadcaster Honored At USDA Millennium Celebration

WASHINGTON, May 30, 2000 -- On May 10, Larry Steckline, local farm broadcaster, received national recognition for years of service, accomplishments, and contributions to the farming industry. The award ceremony "Celebrating the American Family Farm" was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) as part of the USDA's Millennium event series, which are exploring American agriculture in the 21st century. The event was held in Kansas City, Mo.

Upon presenting the award, James R. Baker, GIPSA administrator, said, "Larry has dedicated his life to agriculture and his effort is obvious. He was one of 35 Farm Broadcasters invited to the White House by Presidents Carter, Reagan, and Clinton to discuss agricultural issues and has traveled with Secretaries of Agriculture John Block, Clayton Yuetter, Ed Madigan and Dan Glickman on trade conferences around the world. Larry Steckline's long history of accomplishments and contributions to American agriculture can be matched by few others." At the ceremony, USDA recognized farming in America and honored century farmers and farm families who have made significant contributions to the farming industry in America during the past 100 years.

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Local Cattle Buyer Honored At USDA Millennium Celebration

WASHINGTON, May 30, 2000 -- On May 10, George Martin, a local cattle buyer, received national recognition for his accomplishments and contributions to the farming industry during the past 60 years. The award ceremony "Celebrating the American Family Farm" was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) as part of the USDA's Millennium event series, which are exploring American agriculture in the 21st century. The event was held in Kansas City, Mo.

Upon presenting the award, James R. Baker, GIPSA administrator, said, "George Martin is a true professional, confirmed cattleman who has lived a life based on principles he got from his parents, friends, and men of character that he came in contact with. His traits, sound working knowledge, and desire earn him the status carried by few others, The Professional Order Buyer. George brought the market to the people." Baker went on to say "George Martin has been active in buying cattle for the past 60 years. No other person has been so dedicated to the job, and to the livestock industry, left his mark in so many places and expected only a fair trade in exchange."

Mr. Martin's career started in 1926 in Coffeerville, Kansas at the age of 21 when he managed Valelga Shipping Association, where he learned the foundation of the cattle business. The Depression drove him from Kansas to the West Coast, moving to LA Union Stockyards in 1936. Then he moved to Sterling Meat Corporation and Alpha Beta Food Corporation. After serving three years in the Army during World War II, George returned to Alpha Beta Corp. He spent the next 25 years traveling the Southwest and High Plains, later joining California Cotton Oil Company, and then in the 60s joined Torpey Cattle Company, still shipping cattle to the West Coast from the Southeast region. Nelson Crow owner/publisher of Western Journal gave credit to George Martin for shipping the first Okie cattle from the High Plains to the West Coast and starting the Okie movement.

continued

In 1994, the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City awarded George with the Chester A. Reynolds award, which recognizes a person whose lifestyle represents a distinct contribution to Western Heritage, the only cattle buyer The Cowboy Hall of Fame has ever honored. In 1993 a book about his life was written by Gary Schabb entitled, "Handshake and Heartaches, the Life and Times of George R. Martin, Cattlebuyer." Today Geoge lives in Coffeerville, Arkansas.

At the ceremony, USDA recognized farming in America and honored century farmers and farm families who have made significant contributions to the farming industry in America during the past 100 years.

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GIPSA Releases FY 2000 Annual Report

WASHINGTON, DC (December 5, 2000) -- The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration today released its annual report for fiscal year 2000. The report summarizes the Agency's organizational structure and functions, program activities and accomplishments, management initiatives, and financial status for fiscal year 2000.

The report is available for downloading and browsing from GIPSA's website (<http://www.gipsa.usda.gov>); limited amounts of hard copies also are available.

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News Release

Release No.: 06-00

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GIPSA Holds Biotech Methods Validation Meeting

Washington, DC (February 25, 2000) -- The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, in conjunction with the Analytical Environmental Immunochemical Consortium (AEIC), this week sponsored a meeting on detection methods and sampling techniques for biotechnology derived grains.

The AEIC is comprised of life science companies and immunochemical detection technology companies.

The conference was a forum for experts to discuss the application and validation of measurement technologies, and the proper validation and use of DNA-based (PCR) and immunological-based detection methods as diagnostic tools for grain testing. These methods are used to determine if grains are genetically modified for enhanced agronomic and consumer desired traits. Scientific sampling of grain also was addressed. Participants represented the governments of the United States, Canada, and the European Commission, in addition to the U.S. grain industry, life science companies, and independent technology and service providers.

GIPSA administrator James R. Baker said that the conference was a unique opportunity for scientific experts in biochemical detection technology to gather and address this increasingly important issue.

Baker noted that GIPSA is establishing a biotech reference laboratory in Kansas City, MO, to assist in the standardization of methodologies for detection of genetically modified grains. The lab is scheduled to be operational by late summer.

Information contact: Steve Tanner, director, GIPSA Technical Services Division, 816-891-0401.

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News Release

Release No.: 03-00

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GIPSA Official Designation Activities

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 1, 2000)-USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announced the following action on designations to officially inspect and weigh grain in specified areas in Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Dakota, Tennessee, and Utah.

- GIPSA is seeking applicants to provide official services in the Idaho, Lewiston, Minnesota, Mississippi, and Ohio Valley areas. GIPSA is asking for applications by April 1, 2000.
- Lincoln Inspection Service, Inc., Memphis Grain Inspection Service, and Omaha Grain Inspection Service, Inc., are designated to inspect grain effective May 1, 2000, through March 31, 2003. Grain Inspection, Inc. (Jamestown), Sioux City Inspection and Weighing Service Company, and A. V. Tischer and Son, Inc., are designated to inspect grain effective July 1, 2000, through March 31, 2003. For official grain inspection and weighing services, contact Lincoln at 402-435-4386, Memphis at 901-942-3216, Omaha 402-341-6739, Jamestown at 701-252-1290, Sioux City at 712-255-8073, and Tischer at 515-955-7212.
- Springfield Grain Inspection, Inc., is designated to provide Class X or Class Y weighing services. Contact Springfield at 217-522-5279.

For further information contact Virginia Roseberry at 202-720-9803 or FAX 202-690-2755.

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News Release

Release No.: 07-00

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GIPSA's Export Grain Quality Report Available

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 14, 2000)--The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) today released its latest report on the quality of U.S. grain exports.

Published annually, GIPSA's "1999 U.S. Grain Exports: Quality Report" summarizes the quality of export wheat, corn, soybeans, sorghum, barley, sunflower seeds, and canola. It is based on data collected during the official inspection of export grain shipments in calendar year 1999.

The report is available electronically on GIPSA's web site at www.gipsa.usda.gov.

Hard copies are available in limited quantities and may be requested by calling 202-720-5091 or via electronic mail to dstewart@gipsa.usda.gov.

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News Release

Release No.: 08-00

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GIPSA to Increase Rice Inspection Fee

Washington, DC (March 30, 2000)-The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration is increasing by 4.8 percent the fee for Federal rice inspection services performed under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946. The increase, which becomes effective May 1, 2000, applies to all hourly rates and certain unit rates.

GIPSA has implemented numerous cost-saving measures, including employee buyouts and cross utilization programs, to contain rice inspection service costs. While these measures have reduced operating costs, the proposed increase is needed to cover additional operational costs resulting from a mandated 4.8 percent Federal pay increase that became effective in January 2000.

According to GIPSA administrator James R. Baker, GIPSA's existing fee schedule will not generate sufficient revenues to cover program costs while maintaining an adequate reserve balance. The proposed fee increase is needed to cover increased operational costs resulting from the mandated Federal pay increase.

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News Release

Release No.: 19-00

Contact:
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GIPSA Grain Inspection Advisory Committee to Meet

Washington, DC (April 25, 2000) - The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's Grain Inspection Advisory Committee will meet on May 16-17, 2000, in Portland, Oregon.

The meeting will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel-Lloyd Center, 1000 N.E. Multnomah, Portland, Oregon, from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on May 16, and 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. on May 17, 2000. Topics to be addressed include GIPSA's financial status, reauthorization, biotechnology, and research and information technology strategies.

The Grain Inspection Advisory Committee provides advice to the GIPSA administrator on the delivery of grain inspection and weighing services to American agriculture under the U.S. Grain Standards Act.

Public participation will be limited to written statements, unless permission is received from the Committee Chairman to orally address the Committee. Persons, other than members, who wish to address the Committee or submit written statements before or after the meeting, should contact the Administrator, GIPSA, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, STOP 3601, Washington, D.C. 20250-3601, telephone (202) 720-0219 or FAX (202) 205-9237. The meeting will be open to the public. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication of program information or related accommodation should contact GIPSA.

Information contact: Marianne Plaus, telephone (202) 690-3460 or FAX (202) 205-9237.

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News Release

Release No.: 27-00

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GIPSA Official Designation Activities

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 1, 2000)--The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) today announced the following actions on designations to officially inspect and weigh grain in specified geographic areas in Virginia and Indiana. Designations generally are valid for 3 years.

- Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is designated to officially inspect grain through January 31, 2001. GIPSA will grant a new designation effective January 1, 2001. Any interested party, including the Virginia agency, may apply for the new designation. Applications are due by June 30, 2000.
- Frankfort Grain Inspection, Inc., and Indianapolis Grain and Weighing Service, Inc are designated to officially inspect grain through February 28, 2001. GIPSA will grant new designations effective January 1, 2001. Any interested party, including the Frankfort and Indianapolis agencies, may apply for the new designation. Applications are due by June 30, 2000.

For further information on these designation actions, contact Virginia Roseberry at telephone 202-720-9803, FAX 202-690-2755, or e-mail: vroseber@gipsadc.usda.gov.

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News Release

Release No.: 44-00

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GIPSA Official Designation Activities

WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 1, 2000) - USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announced the following action on designations to officially inspect and weigh grain in specified areas in Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Utah.

- GIPSA is asking for applicants to provide official services in the Champaign, Illinois; Davenport, Iowa; Keokuk, Iowa; Detroit, Michigan; Marshall, Michigan; and Enid, Oklahoma areas. GIPSA is asking for applications by October 1, 2000.
- Ohio Valley Grain Inspection, Inc., is designated to inspect grain effective November 1, 2000 through September 30, 2003. Idaho Grain Inspection Service, Inc., Lewiston Grain Inspection Service, Inc., and Utah Department of Agriculture and Food are designated to inspect grain effective December 1, 2000 through September 30, 2003. Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce is designated to inspect and weigh grain effective January 1, 2001 through September 30, 2003. For official grain inspection and weighing services, contact Ohio Valley at 812-423-9010, Idaho at 208-233-8303, Lewiston at 208-746-0451, Utah at 801-392-2292, and Mississippi at 601-947-4095.

For further information contact Virginia Roseberry at 202-720-9803, fax 202-690-2755 or e-mail vroseber@gipsadc.usda.gov.

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News Release

Release No.: 17-00

Contact:
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GIPSA and Iowa State University Merge NIR Databases

Washington, DC (September 11, 2000) -- The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) today announced that the agency and Iowa State University have entered into a contract to merge the Iowa State University (ISU) corn and soybean databases for the Infratec 1200 series near-infrared transmittance analyzer with the GIPSA databases. The Infratec is used in the official inspection system to measure protein, oil, and starch in corn, and protein and oil in soybeans.

This action, said Michael V. Dunn, under secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, is another instance of GIPSA applying technology and partnering with Land Grant Universities to improve the services provided by the official inspection system.

The merger will produce extensive databases that are geographically and genetically more diverse than either organization could generate acting independently, added GIPSA administrator James R. Baker.

GIPSA will use the combined databases to create improved official NIR calibrations. GIPSA retains exclusive responsibility for official calibration equations and procedures for official use.

GIPSA and ISU have agreed to collaborate on research to maximize the accuracy improvements possible with such large calibration databases. In addition ISU will be sharing information from their instrumentation testing program to assist GIPSA in keeping abreast of new technology.

Information contacts: David Funk, GIPSA Technical Services Division, 816-891-0430, dfunk@gipsakc.usda.gov, and Dr. Charles Hurburgh, Iowa State University, 515-294-8629, tatry@iastate.edu.

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News Release

Release No.: 63-00

Contact:
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GIPSA Approves EZ-Quant DON Plate Kit

WASHINGTON, DC (October 12, 2000) -- The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration today announced that the EZ-Quant DON Plate Kit, manufactured by Diagnostix, has been approved for official testing of deoxynivalenol in the national grain inspection system.

Deoxynivalenol, or DON, is a toxin produced by a mold and can be present in wheat, barley, corn, and other grains. Approval of this test kit expands the choice of DON test kits available to the national inspection system.

GIPSA authorizes the use of the EZ-Quant method to determine deoxynivalenol levels in wheat, barley, malted barley, and corn.

Technical information: Don Kendall, GIPSA Technical Services Division, 816-891-0463.

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News Release

Release No.:72-00

Contact:
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GIPSA To Certify Wheat Protein Content on Any Moisture Basis

WASHINGTON, November 3, 2000 - The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration today announced that effective May 1, 2001, the agency will begin certifying wheat protein content results on any specified moisture basis requested by applicants, in addition to the current 12.0 percent moisture basis.

Wheat protein analysis and certification by GIPSA have always been optional: buyers and sellers contractually agree whether or not to request official protein testing services. Under the new program, wheat protein content would be certified on an alternative moisture basis in addition to the current 12.0 percent moisture basis only upon specific request by an applicant. In lieu of such a request, it would continue to be certified on the current 12.0-percent moisture basis.

According to GIPSA administrator James R. Baker, U.S. wheat importers asked GIPSA to provide this optional certification to facilitate trade. "This action," Baker said, "adds flexibility to the U.S. wheat marketing system and allows the U.S. industry to better meet its customers needs."

The change will be effected on May 1, 2001, to allow the grain industry and customers of U.S. wheat to familiarize themselves with the option and make necessary marketing adjustments.

Technical information contact: Paul Manol, GIPSA, 202-720-0252.

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News Release

Release No.: 73-00

Contact:
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GIPSA Proposes Fee Increase for Commodity and Rice Inspection Services

WASHINGTON, November 3, 2000 -- The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration today proposed a 3.7 percent increase in fees for all hourly rates and certain unit rates for inspection services performed under the Agricultural Marketing Act (AMA) of 1946 in the commodity and rice inspection programs.

According to GIPSA administrator James R. Baker, these increases are needed to cover increased operational costs resulting from the mandated January 2001 Federal pay increase. Comments on the proposal must be submitted on or before January 2, 2001, to Sharon Vassiliades, GIPSA, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 1647-S, Washington, D.C. 20250-3604, via fax to (202) 690- 2755, or e-mailed to comments@gipsadc.usda.gov. The proposal was published in today's Federal Register.

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News Release

Release No.: 74-00

Contact:
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GIPSA Grain Inspection Advisory Committee to Meet

WASHINGTON, DC (November 14, 2000) ? The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's Grain Inspection Advisory Committee will meet on November 28-29, 2000, in Arlington, Virginia.

The meeting will be held at the Crystal City Marriott, 1999 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia, from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on November 28, and 8:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. on November 29, 2000. Topics to be addressed include GIPSA's financial status, wheat dockage proposal, reauthorization, biotechnology, research initiatives, standardization and training services for the grain industry, certification of producers and grain elevators, and other related issues concerning the delivery of grain inspection and weighing services to American agriculture.

The Grain Inspection Advisory Committee provides advice to the GIPSA administrator on the delivery of grain inspection and weighing services to American agriculture under the U.S. Grain Standards Act.

Public participation will be limited to written statements, unless permission is received from the Committee Chairman to orally address the Committee. Persons, other than members, who wish to address the Committee or submit written statements before or after the meeting, should contact the Administrator, GIPSA, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, STOP 3601, Washington, D.C. 20250-3601, telephone (202) 720-0219 or FAX (202) 205-9237. The meeting will be open to the public. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication of program information or related accommodation should contact GIPSA.

Information contact: Marianne Plaus, telephone (202) 690-3460 or FAX (202) 205-9237.

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News Release

Release No.: 76-00

Contact:
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GIPSA Official Designation Activities

WASHINGTON, D.C. (December 1, 2000)-USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announced the following action on designations to officially inspect and weigh grain in specified areas in Nebraska, Indiana, Minnesota, and Virginia.

- GIPSA is asking for applicants to provide official services in the Fremont, Nebraska; Muncie, Indiana; and West Lafayette, Indiana areas. GIPSA is asking for applications by December 31, 2000.
- Frankfort Grain Inspection, Inc., is designated to inspect and weigh grain effective March 1, 2001 through December 31, 2003. Indianapolis Grain Inspection & Weighing Service, Inc., is designated to inspect grain effective March 1, 2001 through December 31, 2003. Minnesota Department of Agriculture is designated to inspect and weigh grain effective January 1, 2001 through September 30, 2003. Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is designated to inspect and weigh grain effective February 1, 2001 through December 31, 2003. For official grain inspection and weighing services, contact Frankfort at 765-258-3624, Indianapolis at 317-899-2337, Minnesota at 612-341-7190, and Virginia at 757-494-2464.

For further information contact Virginia Roseberry at 202-720-9803, fax 202-690-2755 or e-mail vroseber@gipsadc.usda.gov.

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News Release

Release No.: 38-00

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GIPSA Official Designation Activities

WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 3, 2000) - USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announced the following action on designations to officially inspect and weigh grain in specified areas in Colorado, Indiana, Kansas, Ohio, and North Dakota.

- Kansas Grain Inspection Service, Inc., is designated to inspect grain effective September 1, 2000, through June 30, 2003. Minot Grain Inspection, Inc., and Tri-State Grain Inspection Service, Inc., are designated to inspect grain effective October 1, 2000, through June 30, 2003. East Indiana Grain Inspection, Inc., is designated to inspect grain for a limited, 1-year designation effective September 1, 2000 through August 31, 2001. For official grain inspection and weighing services, contact Kansas at 785-233-7063, Minot at 701-838-1734, Tri-State at 513-251-6571, and East Indiana at 765-289-1206.

For further information contact Virginia Roseberry at 202-720-9803, fax 202-690-2755 or e-mail vroseber@gipsadc.usda.gov.

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News Release

Release No.: 50-00

Contact:
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USDA Seeks Members for Grain Inspection Advisory Committee

WASHINGTON (September 14, 2000)-- The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration is seeking nominations for individuals to serve on the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee. Nominations are being sought for 5 members and 5 alternates, all of whom will begin serving their 3-year terms in March 2001.

The Committee is comprised of 15 members, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, who represent all facets of the grain industry. The Committee meets twice annually to advise GIPSA on the establishment of programs and services under the U.S. Grain Standards Act that meet the needs of the Agency's customers. Committee members will address new challenges facing the Agency resulting from changes in the grain industry. For instance, biotechnology is reshaping many aspects of official grain inspection; input from the Committee on this issue is critical. Members of the Committee serve without compensation; they are reimbursed for travel expenses.

Nominations are open to all individuals without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, mental or physical handicap, marital status, or sexual orientation.

Persons interested in serving on the Advisory Committee, or in nominating individuals to serve, should contact GIPSA, by telephone (202-720-0219), fax (202-205-9237), or e-mail (mplaus@gipsadc.usda.gov) and request Nomination Form AD-755. Nomination forms also are available from GIPSA's web site at: <http://www.gipsa.usda.gov>. Completed nomination forms must be submitted to GIPSA by fax or in hard copy to: GIPSA, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Stop 3601, Washington, DC 20250-3601. Form AD-755 must be received not later than October 16, 2000.

A notice to solicit nominees was published in today's Federal Register.

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News Release

Release No.: 01-00

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Kansas Livestock Dealer Suspended

WASHINGTON, DC (January 20, 2000)--The U. S. Department of Agriculture has suspended Marysville Enterprises, Inc., doing business as Marysville Hog Buying Co., and James L. Breeding, and ordered them to cease and desist violating the Packers and Stockyards Act.

Marysville Enterprises and Mr. Breeding were ordered to cease and desist from issuing insufficient funds checks and failing to pay promptly for livestock purchased. Their registration as livestock dealers under the Act was suspended for 5 years. A supplemental order may be issued after 150 days permitting the salaried employment of Mr. Breeding by another registrant or meat packer.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade and payment protection law. It is designed to ensure free and open competition, and to prevent unfair and deceptive practices in the marketing of livestock, meat and poultry and provide financial protection.

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News Release

Release No.: 04-00

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USDA Responds to Mississippi Poultry Growers' Concerns

Washington, DC (February 11, 2000)--A rapid response team from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration was in Jackson, MS, during the week of February 9, 2000, to respond to poultry growers' concerns of unfair treatment under the Packers and Stockyards Act.

GIPSA's rapid response teams are designed to deal with high priority investigations that require fast action to prevent or minimize major competitive or financial harm caused by violations of the Act.

The eight-member team investigated complaints made by poultry growers about changes to their growout contracts. The investigation into potential violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act was initiated in response to numerous complaints made to GIPSA's Violations Hotline (800-998-3447).

"We spoke with growers, met with Mississippi's Commissioner of Agriculture and Attorney General, collected a great deal of records and data, and now have the information we need to determine if violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act are taking place," said GIPSA administrator James R. Baker.

GIPSA is responsible for enforcing the Packers and Stockyards Act, which prohibits poultry companies from unfair and unjust practices related to contracting with poultry growers.

For more information, call Amy R. Van Skiver, Regional Supervisor, GIPSA Atlanta Regional Office, at (404) 562-5840.

Dennis S. Murray Sr. (202) 720-7456 DSMurray@usda.gov



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News Release

Release No.: 10-00

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USDA Accuses Perdue Of Unfair And Deceptive Practices

Washington, DC (March 23, 2000) -- On March 7, 2000, the Department of Justice filed a complaint in the District of Maryland, United States District Court on behalf of the U.S. Department of Agriculture against Perdue Farms, Inc. The complaint alleges that Perdue, Inc. engaged in unfair and deceptive practices in its dealings with poultry growers and failed to abide by the terms and provisions of an agreement entered into with its poultry growers.

The filing of the complaint is the result of a year-long investigation conducted by USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration. The primary focus of the investigation involved Perdue's placement of poultry growers on a rider contract which was allegedly instituted by Perdue to improve the performance of those growers who had unacceptably high production costs. The investigation also focused on the alleged failure of Perdue to abide by the terms of a signed agreement with one of its poultry growers.

At issue in the complaint is Perdue's alleged violation of sections 202(a) and 202(b) of the Packers and Stockyards Act (7 U.S.C. 192(a), 192(b)). The complaint alleges that Perdue engaged in an unfair practice and subjected two of its poultry growers to an undue or unreasonable prejudice or disadvantage by using less than six flocks to determine those growers' eligibility for placement on a rider contract. The complaint also alleges that Perdue engaged in an unfair practice and subjected one of its growers to an unfair or unreasonable prejudice or disadvantage by its failure to honor the terms of a signed agreement between Perdue and the grower.

"This case goes to the heart of concerns that every small and medium-sized producer and grower have about production contracting in the poultry and livestock industry," said Michael V. Dunn, USDA under secretary for marketing and regulatory programs. "Producers expect companies to abide fairly and comply with the terms in those contracts and agreements."

continued

“GIPSA seeks to vigilantly enforce the Packers and Stockyards Act and carefully investigate all potential violations of the Act,” added GIPSA administrator James R. Baker. “The agency has made it easier for producers and growers to contact us. Those with concerns can now contact GIPSA at our toll-free telephone hotline, 1-800-998-3447, to register a complaint.”

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News Release

Release No.: 11-00

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Court Order Restrains Virginia Livestock Dealer From Engaging In Business

Washington, DC (March 27, 2000) -- The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards today announced that it has obtained a preliminary injunction restraining Joseph E. Furr Livestock, Inc., and owner Joseph E. Furr, Staunton, Virginia, from engaging in business as a dealer or market agency under the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921, as amended. The injunction further restrains the defendants from failing to pay for livestock, failing to pay, when due, for livestock, and from issuing insufficient funds checks in purported payment for livestock. The order was issued March 24, 2000, by the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia in Harrisonburg.

USDA sought the preliminary injunction to obtain relief until a pending complaint under the Packers and Stockyards Act is issued and a final decision is reached. USDA's complaint also sought injunctive relief to enforce a final order of the Secretary of Agriculture filed in 1993. The 1993 order requires Furr Livestock to cease and desist from engaging in business as a dealer or market agency while insolvent, that is, while its current liabilities exceed its current assets.

In issuing the preliminary injunction, the Court found that "Notwithstanding - the final order of the Secretary, Defendants have continued to engage in business - and their actions pose a serious and immediate risk of irreparable harm to livestock sellers and others in the livestock industry."

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that is designed to prevent unfair and deceptive practices in the marketing of livestock, meat and poultry.

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News Release

Release No.: 12-00

Contact:
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USDA Brings Complaint Against Oregon Livestock Auction

Washington, DC (March 31, 2000) -- On March 23, 2000, the U.S. Department of Agriculture issued an administrative complaint against Woodburn Livestock Market Inc., Woodburn, Oregon, and its owners Robert Babcock, II and Sharon Babcock. The complaint alleges that the auction market is insolvent, a financial condition that does not meet the requirements of the Packers and Stockyards Act, and that Woodburn continued operating in spite of its insolvency when its current liabilities exceeded its current assets.

The complaint also alleges that Woodburn failed to maintain and use properly its "Custodial Account for Shippers Proceeds," thereby endangering payments due the consignors of livestock. Further, Woodburn was alleged to have failed to keep and maintain adequate records that fully and correctly disclosed all business transactions.

If the charges are proven, the parties could be placed under a cease and desist order, similar to a permanent injunction, and may be ordered to pay a civil penalty.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that is designed to ensure free and open competition, and to prevent unfair and deceptive practices in the marketing of livestock, meat and poultry.

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News Release

Release No.: 14-00

Contact:
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USDA Settles Complaint Brought Against Kansas Livestock Auction Yard

WASHINGTON, April 3, 2000 -- Central Livestock Auction Market, Inc., and its president and owner, Russell M. Frederick, Hutchinson, Kansas, have agreed to a cease and desist order to settle a complaint issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration. Central is a livestock auction market selling livestock on a commission basis for local farmers and cattle feeders.

Under the terms of the order, Central and Frederick agreed to cease and desist from: (1) engaging in business as a market agency selling livestock on a commission basis while current liabilities exceed current assets; (2) failing to properly maintain the custodial account for shippers' proceeds; (3) misusing custodial funds; and (4) failing to properly reimburse the custodial account. Central and Frederick were jointly and severally assessed a civil penalty of \$16,000, and ordered to provide USDA with monthly custodial account reconciliations and quarterly balance sheets for a period of 2 years.

In agreeing to the cease and desist order, Central and Frederick neither admitted nor denied the federal administrative charges filed by USDA under the authority of the Packers and Stockyards Act. Central and Frederick were placed under a cease and desist order, similar to a permanent injunction, to ensure future compliance with the Act.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that is designed to ensure free and open competition, and to prevent unfair and deceptive practices in the marketing of livestock, meat and poultry.

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News Release

Release No.: 13-00

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GIPSA Announces New Feed Weighing Regulations

Washington, DC (April 5, 2000) -- The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) today announced new feed weighing regulations under the Packers and Stockyards Act. The regulations, which are intended assure livestock and poultry growers that feed weight is accurately or reasonably determined, will go into effect on May 5, 2000.

The new regulations will help ensure that feed weight is properly documented whenever it affects payment or settlement to livestock and poultry growers. This regulation applies when livestock or poultry is produced under a contract growing arrangement.

The regulations address contract poultry growers' concerns that integrators use their dominant positions to impose unfair or unjust discriminatory terms or conditions upon them. A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking appeared in the April 2, 1999 Federal Register that solicited comments on the proposed regulations.

"The new regulations provide a measure of integrity and credibility to growers and companies to ensure accurate feed weights," commented GIPSA administrator James R. Baker.

"They also provide a measure of confidence for growers," said Michael V. Dunn, USDA under secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs. "The regulations," he added, "are part of USDA's continuing effort to address the special needs of family farmers on contract issues."

The regulations were published in today's Federal Register.

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News Release

Release No.: 20-00

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USDA Issues Complaint against Wayne H. Crites of Moorefield, West Virginia

Washington, DC (April 20, 2000) - On April 10, 2000, the U.S. Department of Agriculture issued an administrative complaint against Wayne H. Crites, of Moorefield, West Virginia, who is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act as a livestock dealer and market agency. The complaint alleges that Crites is financially insolvent in that his current liabilities exceed his current assets, and that he operated while insolvent.

The complaint further alleges that Crites issued checks for livestock that were returned unpaid due to insufficient funds. According to the complaint, Crites failed to pay the full purchase price for livestock purchases and failed to pay promptly for livestock purchases as required under the Packers and Stockyards Act. Crites was also charged with failing to keep and maintain accounts, records and memoranda, which fully disclosed all transactions in his business as a livestock dealer and market agency.

If the charges are proven, Crites could be placed under a cease and desist order, similar to a permanent injunction, and may be ordered to pay a civil penalty.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that is designed to ensure free and open competition, and to prevent unfair and deceptive practices in the marketing of livestock, meat and poultry.

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News Release

Release No.: 21-00

Contact:
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Complaint Filed Against Rod Suhr Of Atlantic, Iowa

Washington, DC (April 24, 2000) - On April 10, 2000, the U.S. Department of Agriculture issued a complaint against Rod Suhr, a dealer and market agency buying livestock on commission in Atlantic, Iowa. The complaint alleges that Mr. Suhr, after being notified of a requirement to maintain an adequate surety bond, or its equivalent in performance of his livestock obligations under the Packers and Stockyards Act, failed to do so.

Should the allegations be proven Mr. Suhr could be placed under a cease and desist order, similar to a permanent injunction, and may be ordered to pay a civil penalty.

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News Release

Release No.: 24-00

Contact:
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USDA Complaint Lodged Against Danny L. Johnson of Glasgow, Kentucky

Washington, DC (May 1, 2000) - On April 10, 2000, the U.S. Department of Agriculture issued an administrative complaint against Danny L. Johnson, of Glasgow, Kentucky, who is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act as a livestock dealer. The complaint alleges that Johnson purchased livestock and failed to pay, when due, the full purchase price.

If the charges are proven, Johnson could be placed under a cease and desist order, similar to a permanent injunction, and ordered to pay a civil penalty.

Johnson was previously ordered to cease and desist from engaging in business subject to the Act while his current liabilities exceeded his current assets and for failing to pay when due the full purchase price of livestock. Johnson and two other parties named in that matter were jointly and severally assessed a civil penalty which was paid in October 1992.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that is designed to ensure free competition, and to prevent unfair and deceptive practices in the marketing of livestock, meat, and poultry.

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News Release

Release No.: 23-00

Contact:
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USDA Complaint Issued Against Robert Schenk of Ann Arbor, Michigan

Washington, DC (May 1, 2000) - On April 10, 2000, the U.S. Department of Agriculture issued an administrative complaint against Robert Schenk, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, who is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act as a market agency buying on commission. The complaint alleges that Schenk failed to maintain an adequate bond, or its equivalent, after being notified in June 1999, that one was required to allow him to continue his livestock operations.

If the charges are proven, Schenk could be placed under a cease and desist order, similar to a permanent injunction, and may be ordered to pay a civil penalty.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that is designed to ensure fair competition, and to prevent unfair and deceptive practices in the marketing of livestock, meat and poultry.

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News Release

Release No.: 22-00

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Scott I. Sechler Agrees to Penalties to Settle USDA Charges

Washington, DC (May 1, 2000) - On April 10, 2000, Scott I. Sechler of Strausstown, Pennsylvania, entered into a consent agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture to cease and desist from failing to pay, when due, for live poultry purchased in cash sales, and from failing to pay for live poultry purchased in cash sales. Mr. Sechler was assessed a civil penalty of \$8,000.

In agreeing to the consent decision, Mr. Sechler neither admits nor denies the allegations made by USDA against Mr. Sechler and Sechler Foods, Inc., but has agreed to waive an oral hearing and settle the matter.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that is designed to ensure fair competition, and to prevent unfair and deceptive practices in the marketing of livestock, meat and poultry.

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News Release

Release No.: 25-00

Contact:
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USDA Issues Complaint Against Joseph E. Furr Livestock Inc., and Joseph E. Furr

Washington, DC (May 2, 2000) - On April 19, 2000, the U.S. Department of Agriculture issued an Administrative Complaint against Joseph E. Furr Livestock Inc., (Furr, Inc.) and Joseph E. Furr. The Complaint follows a preliminary injunction filed on March 24, 2000 in the U.S. District Court for the Western district of Virginia in Harrisonburg, which restrained Furr, Inc. and Joseph E. Furr from engaging in business as a dealer or market agency under the Packers and Stockyards Act, and from failing to pay for livestock, failing to pay when due for livestock, and issuing insufficient funds checks in purported payment for livestock.

Furr, Inc. is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act as a livestock dealer and market agency buying livestock on a commission basis (order buyer). Mr. Furr is alleged to be responsible for the management, direction and control of Furr, Inc.

The Complaint issued by the USDA's Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration contains the following allegations against Joseph E. Furr Livestock, Inc., and Joseph E. Furr:

- **Failure to Pay for Livestock.** Furr, Inc., under the direction, management and control of Joseph E. Furr, failed to pay eighteen auction markets \$354,668.42 for livestock purchases.
- **Insufficient Funds Checks.** Furr, Inc., under the direction, management and control of Joseph E. Furr, issued eight checks for the purchase of livestock, which were returned unpaid from the bank upon which they were drawn. The checks were returned because there was insufficient funds on deposit and available in the account to pay the checks when they were presented for payment. Three of the checks, totaling \$43,489.49, remain unpaid as of the date of the issuance of the Complaint (April 19, 2000).

continued

- Financial Condition. As of October 31, 1999, the financial condition of Furr, Inc., did not meet the requirements of the Act, since current liabilities of \$376,076.02 exceeded current assets of \$73,713.25 by \$302,362.77. The current liabilities of Furr, Inc., presently exceed its current assets. Furr, Inc., under the direction, management and control of Joseph E. Furr, has operated while insolvent between June 30, 1998, and February 17, 2000.

The Complaint contains the following allegations pertaining to Joseph E. Furr while acting in his individual capacity and engaging in business as a market agency selling livestock on a commission basis in connection with the operations of Central Virginia Livestock Market, Inc. (Central) of Amherst, VA:

- Mr. Furr failed to properly maintain and use Central's custodial account for shippers' proceeds and failed to properly reimburse the custodial account for purchases at Central by Furr, Inc. Mr. Furr's failure to reimburse Central's custodial account for \$53,849.42 in purchases he made at Central for Furr, Inc., was a primary cause of custodial account shortages on three dates between December 31, 1999 and March 14, 2000.

Central's custodial account shortages were due in part to

- Joseph E. Furr taking for his own use \$41,508.27 in proceeds receivable collections between July 7, 1999 and August 5, 1999, that he was required to deposit to the custodial account; and
- Joseph E. Furr taking 3 loans totaling \$17,765.85 from the custodial account between July 15, 1999 and August 5, 1999. Central Virginia Livestock Market, Inc., is not named in the Complaint and is not a respondent in this action.

The Complaint alleges that Joseph E. Furr misused the corporate funds of Joseph E. Furr Livestock, Inc. while the corporation had past due livestock payment obligations, and that Mr. Furr disregarded the corporation as a separate legal entity:

- Between January 29, 1999 and July 30, 1999, Mr. Furr directed his bank to make five transfers of funds totaling \$30,874.21 from the corporation's checking account in payments against a personal loan in the amount of \$500,000 that was secured by real estate owned by Mr. Furr and his wife.
- Between September 10, 1999 and February 7, 2000, forty checks totaling \$28,885.25 were drawn on the corporation's checking account and paid to Mr. Furr individually.
- On February 9, 2000, a check in the amount of \$20,652.22 that had been received from Shapiro Packing Company, Inc., in payment for livestock, was deposited to Mr. Furr's bank account and used for personal obligations of Mr. Furr.

If the charges are proven, Joseph E. Furr Livestock, Inc., and Joseph E. Furr could be placed under a cease and desist order, suspended as a registrant, and assessed penalties as provided by the Packers and Stockyards Act.

continued

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News Release

Release No.: 28-00

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Fullerton Farmers Elevator Pays \$10,500 Penalty to Settle USDA Charges

Washington, DC (May 23, 2000) -- Fullerton Farmers Elevator, Fullerton, North Dakota, agreed to pay a \$10,500 civil monetary penalty to settle an enforcement action brought by USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA).

GIPSA administrator James R. Baker said that the firm was charged with causing the issuance of false official grain inspection certificates by deceptively handling grain presented for official inspection. This is a violation of the United States Grain Standards Act.

The complaint filed against Fullerton Farmers Elevator was the result of an investigation conducted by GIPSA under the authority of the U.S. Grain Standards Act.

The U.S. Grain Standards Act provides for the establishment of U.S. grain standards, and for the official inspection and weighing of grain shipped in domestic and international commerce.

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News Release

Release No.: 37-00

Contact:
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Furr Agrees To Settle USDA Complaint

Washington, June 6, 2000 -- Joseph E. Furr Livestock Inc. and Joseph E. Furr (Furr) of Staunton, Virginia, has been suspended as a registered dealer and market agency for a period of 5 years, and thereafter, if unable to demonstrate solvency (an excess of current assets over current liabilities), as required by the Packers and Stockyards Act and regulations.

In a decision filed May 18, 2000, Joseph E. Furr, Livestock Inc., and Joseph E. Furr (Furr) were ordered, subject to the Act, to cease and desist from: failing to pay, and pay when due, the full purchase price of livestock; issuing checks in payment for livestock purchases without sufficient funds on deposit and available for payment; and, using corporate funds for personal use when the firm has past due livestock payment obligations.

Furr, in conjunction with his interest in Central Virginia Livestock Market, Inc. (which was not a respondent) has been ordered to cease and desist from: failing to timely reimburse the Custodial Account for Shippers' Proceeds for his own purchases; borrowing, withdrawing, or using funds from the Custodial Account for any purpose other than for payment of lawful marketing charges and remittance of the net proceeds due to consignors and shippers of livestock; and failing to maintain the Custodial Account in strict conformity with the regulations.

Additionally, Furr may not serve as president or officer of Central Virginia Livestock Market Inc. of Amherst, Virginia, and may not perform any duties as an agent or employee of this auction market or any other market agency, dealer, or packer while suspended. The suspension of Joseph E. Furr may be modified after 360 days to permit employment that does not involve the purchase and sale of livestock, provided Furr can demonstrate circumstances warranting a modification.

continued

Respondents, while agreeing to the Secretary of Agriculture's jurisdiction in this matter, neither admit nor deny the material allegations set forth in the complaint issued on April 19, 2000. However, to settle the matter, respondents waived an oral hearing and consented to the entry of the order in this case.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that is designed to prevent unfair and deceptive practices in the marketing of livestock, meat and poultry.

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News Release

Release No.: 39-00

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West Virginia Livestock Dealer/Market Agency Suspended

Washington - July 6, 2000, Wayne H. Crites of Moorefield, West Virginia, has been suspended as a registered livestock dealer and market agency for a period of 5 years, or more, until he is able to demonstrate solvency (an excess of current assets over current liabilities), as required by the Packers and Stockyards Act and Regulations.

In a Decision issued June 06, 2000, Crites was ordered to stop: purchasing livestock while insolvent (while his current liabilities exceeded current his assets); failing to pay, when due, the full purchase price of livestock; failing to pay the full purchase price of livestock; and failing to keep and maintain accounts, records and memoranda which accurately disclosed all transactions involved in his business.

Crites is suspended as a registrant under the Act for a period of 5 years or until he is able to demonstrate solvency. If, after 90 days, Crites is able to demonstrate solvency and all unpaid livestock sellers identified in the Complaint have been paid in full, then an Order terminating suspension may be issued. Additionally, the Order may be modified to permit Crites to become an employee of another registrant or packer after 90 days of suspension, if circumstances demonstrate that a modification is justified.

The respondent Wayne H. Crites, by failing to answer the Complaint has admitted all of the material allegations contained in the Complaint.

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News Release

Release No.: 40-00

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Furr Held in Civil Contempt of Court Order

Washington -GIPSA (July 10, 2000) Joseph E. Furr (Joseph E. Furr Livestock Inc.) has been held in civil contempt for violating a preliminary injunction that was issued on March 24, 2000. The preliminary injunction ordered Furr, a livestock dealer, to “cease and desist” from both purchasing and selling livestock. In a hearing held on June 7, 2000, it was found that Furr had ignored the preliminary injunction. He willfully and unlawfully continued to purchase and sell livestock as a dealer.

Furr is now permanently forbidden, under provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act, from purchasing and selling livestock as a dealer. The Harrisonburg Division of the United States District Court for the Western Division of Virginia has directed Furr to fully comply with all provisions of the Secretary of Agriculture’s order.

Furr has also been directed to make his records freely available for inspection by GIPSA, to refrain from hostile and threatening conduct, and from interfering with future investigations conducted to verify his compliance with this order and with the order of the Secretary. Furr is allowed to purchase livestock for his own cattle grazing operation. He is, however, required to keep detailed records, tag all of his animals, and keep all animals on pasture for at least 90 days. These requirements will help ensure that any profit Furr derives is derived from grazing the cattle and not from trading as a dealer.

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News Release

Release No.: XX-XX

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W.W. Livestock Inc. Accused of Fraudulently Selling Livestock

Washington, DC (July 20, 2000). - USDA has named W.W. Livestock Inc., O. Wayne Clark (president and owner), Ernie Kennedy, and Warren Young as respondents in a complaint that alleges that they willfully and fraudulently sold livestock based on false weights in violation of the Packers and Stockyards Act. They allegedly falsified scale tickets to support sales invoices and billed customers for fraudulently increased weights.

W.W. Livestock, a dealer, in Madison, Florida, allegedly sold 37, 833 head of feeder cattle based on false weights and these weights exceeded original purchase weights of livestock by 406,970 pounds. It is alleged that customers were fraudulently billed \$341,320.30 more than the amount due, if the original purchase weights had been honestly reported and billed correctly.

Weights were allegedly falsified when the respondents used a type registering "weighbeam" that allowed them to print false weights without having livestock on the scale platform. The weighbeam, allegedly, allowed them to print false scale tickets for shipments that had already been sold. Additionally, it is alleged that they printed numerous scale tickets and failed to enter the date and time, names of the buyer and seller, and the initials of the person weighing the livestock, despite having notice of the livestock weighing procedures that they were required to follow under regulations established by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Should the respondents fail to file an answer to this complaint, it will constitute an admission of the allegations stated in the complaint. If they answer the complaint and deny the allegations, a date will be set for an oral hearing.

USDA has requested that an order be issued requiring the respondents to stop violating the Act, that they be suspended as registrants, and that appropriate civil penalties be assessed. The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that is designed to prevent unfair and deceptive practices in the marketing of livestock, meat and poultry.

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News Release

Release No.: 42-00

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Carl Stephens Subject of USDA Complaint

Washington, DC (July 28, 2000) -- The Department of Agriculture issued a complaint on July 19, 2000, against John Carl Stephens operating as Carl Stephens (Stephens), a livestock dealer, in Irwinville, Georgia. Stephens allegedly issued insufficient funds checks for livestock purchases, and failed to pay and provide timely payments for livestock purchases.

As of January 25, 2000, Stephens allegedly owed \$11,327 for unpaid livestock purchases. Should Stephens fail to respond to this complaint, it will constitute an admission of the allegations stated in the complaint. If the complaint is answered, denying the allegations, a date will be set for an oral hearing.

USDA has requested that an order be issued requiring Stephens to stop violating the Packers and Stockyards Act, that he be suspended as a registrant, and that appropriate civil penalties be assessed.

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News Release

Release No.: 43-00

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Perdue Enters Into Consent Agreement With USDA

Washington (August 14, 2000) - The Department of Agriculture and Perdue entered into a consent agreement on July 31, 2000 to resolve a complaint that was filed in the U.S. District Court of Maryland on March 7, 2000, by the United States Attorney. The complaint alleged that Perdue had engaged in unfair and deceptive practices in its dealings with some of its poultry growers. USDA sought injunctive relief against Perdue for its alleged violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act. The parties agreed to a dismissal of the complaint as part of the consent agreement.

Perdue has agreed to the following provisions pursuant to the consent agreement:

- Perdue will not implement a “rider contract” or other equivalent modification of its standard contract that removes the minimum payment provision without prior notification to affected producers. The terms and conditions of the rider contract must be provided to all poultry producers, in the affected region, within a reasonable period of time, prior to its implementation.
- All flock improvement action plans or equivalent documents, signed by both the poultry producer and employee or agent of Perdue, shall contain a conspicuous and explicit notice stating that such document is not a binding agreement on either party, and that it does not amend the Poultry Producer Agreement between the producer and Perdue.
- Perdue will not use a numeric average formula based on a specific number of flocks to determine a grower’s eligibility for a “rider contract,” unless the usual and customary meaning of the specified number of flocks is utilized.

continued

The consent agreement also provides that an action may be initiated in the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland seeking injunctive relief to enforce the terms of the consent agreement if USDA believes that Perdue has breached any provision of it. Perdue, in agreeing to the provisions of the consent agreement, does not admit liability and expressly denies that it has engaged in any violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act or other applicable law.

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News Release

Release No.: 45-00

Contact:
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GIPSA Releases Packers and Stockyards 1998 Statistical Report

Washington, DC (August 15, 2000) -- The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration today released its Packers and Stockyards Statistical Report for 1998.

Published annually, this report on livestock marketing and meat packing contains data on industry concentration, packing plant size, volume of livestock fed by packers, packer financial performance, number of animals purchased by source of supply (public versus direct market), and method of procurement (live versus carcass basis). It includes data on slaughtering packers; market agencies buying or selling livestock on commission, including auction markets and selling agencies at terminal stockyards; and livestock dealers buying and selling livestock for their own accounts. It includes data from the 1998 reporting year and selected data for earlier years.

All slaughtering packers operating in commerce in the United States are subject to the annual reporting requirements of the Packers and Stockyards Act. Data contained in this report are derived from the annual reports submitted by all except small volume packers.

“This report,” said GIPSA administrator James R. Baker, “contains a wealth of data showing major structural changes in the livestock and meatpacking industries.”

The report is available in its entirety on GIPSA’s home page at: <http://www.usda.gov>. Hard copies of the report may be requested from Henry Wang, GIPSA Economic and Statistical Support Staff, at 202-720-7455; FAX 202-690-1266; or email henry.wang@usda.gov.

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News Release

Release No.: 47-00

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GIPSA Announces a Series of Poultry Meetings

August 29, 2000

GIPSA will host a series of town hall meetings for poultry growers and interested stakeholders. The agenda for the meetings will include GIPSA's authority and responsibility relating to poultry, feed weight regulations, new rules announced by Secretary Glickman that relate to poultry, and poultry contracting terms. This outreach effort has been designed to allow GIPSA to meet with poultry growers, the poultry industry and other stakeholders to discuss current issues in the poultry industry.

Meetings will be held at the following locations on the following dates:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
• Texarkana, TX	9/26/00
• Salisbury, MD	10/3/00
• Harrisonburg, VA	10/5/00
• Archbold, OH	10/12/00
• Athens, GA	10/20/00
• Birmingham, AL	10/24/00
• Jackson, MS	10/26/00
• Russellville, AR	10/30/00
• Dexter, MO	11/1/00
• Fayetteville, NC	11/14/00

Additional information, including meeting times and places for each site, will be issued in individual announcements, and on GIPSA's web site at www.usda.gov/gipsa/.

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News Release

Release No.: 48-00

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Livestock Dealer Agrees to \$50,000 Civil Penalty

Washington, DC (September 1, 2000) -- Mark V. Porter, operating as MVP Farms Inc. (MVP) in Sunnyside, Washington, agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$50,000 in a mediation hearing on July 25, 2000.

On September 24, 1999, the United States Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a civil action in the United States District Court against Porter and MVP for a failure to file annual business reports. The Packers and Stockyards Act requires that livestock dealers file annual business reports. Porter failed to file in 1996, 1997, and 1998.

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News Release

Release No.: 49-00

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GIPSA Seeking Public Comment on Proposed Swine Contract Regulation

Washington, DC (September 6, 2000) U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) published a new proposed regulation in the Federal Register on September 5, 2000. GIPSA is seeking public comment for the proposed regulation that implements the legislative requirements of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 (LMRA). A copy of the proposed regulation may be found on GIPSA's web site at <http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/rulemaking/fr00/fr00.htm>.

The Packers and Stockyards Act was amended by the LMRA which created a new subtitle called Swine Packer Marketing Contracts. The new regulation is required to implement the new subtitle. The new regulation would require certain packers to file swine marketing or purchase contracts with GIPSA and would require GIPSA to publish monthly reports about available swine marketing contracts.

The objective of the LMRA is to establish a program of information regarding the marketing of cattle, swine, lambs, and products of such livestock by:

- providing information that will be readily understood by producers, packers, and other market participants, including information with respect to price, purchase contracts, supply and demand conditions for livestock, livestock production, and livestock products;
- improving the price and supply reporting services of the Department of Agriculture; and,
- encouraging competition in the marketplace for livestock and livestock products.

Comments on the new proposed GIPSA regulation must be received by October 5, 2000, for consideration and may be mailed to the Deputy Administrator, Packers and Stockyards Programs (GIPSA), USDA, Stop 3641, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-3641; sent by fax to 202-205-3941; or e-mailed to comments@gipsadc.usda.gov. Please state that your comments refer to Swine Packer Marketing Contracts (PSA-2000-01-a, RIN 0580-AA71). All comments will be a matter of public record and will be available for review during normal business hours in the Office of the Deputy Administrator, Packers and Stockyards Programs, Room 3039 (same address as listed above).

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News Release

Release No.: 26-00

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JoAnn Waterfield Named GIPSA Deputy Administrator for Packers and Stockyards Programs

WASHINGTON, DC (September 11, 2000) The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration today announced that JoAnn Waterfield has been selected to be deputy administrator for the agency's Packers and Stockyards Programs.

As deputy administrator, Waterfield will carry out GIPSA's responsibilities under the Packers and Stockyards Act. This includes providing payment protection to livestock and poultry producers; promoting fair and competitive marketing conditions in the livestock, live poultry, and meat packing industries by investigating practices that have the potential to limit or restrict competition in violation of the Packers and Stockyards Act; and monitoring, investigating, and analyzing the livestock, meat, and poultry industries to guard against unfair, deceptive, or fraudulent marketing, merchandising, or weighing practices.

"Our Packers and Stockyards program helps to ensure the integrity of America's meat, poultry, and livestock markets," said GIPSA Administrator James R. Baker. "Ms. Waterfield's experience and expertise in investigating and litigating cases under the Packers and Stockyards Act will ensure that GIPSA fulfills that critically important role. She will lead a strong and effective P&S program into the 21st century."

From 1991 until joining GIPSA, Ms. Waterfield was an attorney with the Trade Practices Division of USDA's Office of the General Counsel, where she litigated proceedings to enforce the Packers and Stockyards Act.

Ms. Waterfield received her B.A. from the American University and her J.D. from the University of Maryland Law School.

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News Release

Release No.: 51-00

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USDA Files Complaint Against Barnesville Livestock Sales Co.

Washington - (September 13, 2000) A Barnesville, Ohio, stockyard and market agency has been charged with violating the Packers and Stockyards Act. On June 21, 2000, USDA filed a complaint against Barnesville Livestock Sales Co. Inc. (Barnesville) and Gary W. Fogle (Fogle) alleging that Barnesville, under the direction, management, and control of Fogle, failed to maintain and properly use its custodial account, which endangered the prompt and full payments due to consignors of livestock.

The complaint alleges that shortages in the custodial account were due, in part, to Gary Fogle (president and 50% owner of Barnesville). Fogle allegedly failed to deposit the correct amount of money into a bank account as required by the Packers and Stockyards Act. The Act requires timely deposits of the proceeds from the sale of consigned livestock, whether or not such proceeds have been collected by the market agency.

An investigation by USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) indicates that Barnesville was insolvent because its current liabilities exceeded its current assets. In addition, Barnesville allegedly issued checks to consignors of livestock that were returned unpaid because of insufficient funds in the account.

Barnesville and Fogle have 20 days after receipt of the complaint to answer the allegations stated in it. Failure to file an answer will constitute an admission of the allegations. This case may be set for oral hearing, and Barnesville and Fogle may be ordered to stop violations of the Act, suspended as registrants, and assessed a civil penalty.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that is designed to prevent unfair and deceptive practices in the marketing of livestock, meat and poultry, and to provide financial protection to livestock sellers.

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Michigan Market Agency Fined \$2,500 in Civil Penalty

Washington, DC (September 13, 2000) - Robert Schenk, an Ann Arbor, Michigan, market agency buying livestock on a commission basis (order buyer) was fined \$2,500. Schenk admitted, by default, allegations contained in a USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration complaint filed earlier this year. In addition to paying the fine, Schenk was ordered to cease from engaging in any business in any capacity for which bonding is required under the Packers and Stockyards Act without filing and maintaining an adequate bond, or its equivalent. This decision will become effective 35 days after the date of service, unless it is appealed within 30 days.

On April 10, 2000, GIPSA issued an administrative complaint against Schenk, a registered market agency buying on commission. The complaint alleged that Schenk had failed to maintain a \$50,000 bond to cover his livestock buying operations, or its equivalent, after being notified in June 1999. By failing to respond in a timely fashion to the complaint alleging violations of the Act, Schenk, by default, admitted to the alleged facts in the complaint.

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Release No.: 52-00

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Complaint Issued Against Miller Cattle Company

Washington, DC (September 13, 2000) On August 17, 2000, the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration issued a complaint against Mark A. Miller, doing business as Miller Cattle Company (Miller). Miller is a dealer and market agency buying livestock on a commission basis in Dodge City, Kansas. The complaint alleges that Miller, after being notified that his \$80,000 bond would terminate, failed to obtain a new bond or its equivalent. Bonds are required under the Packers and Stockyards Act to secure the performance of the firm's livestock obligations. The Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that is designed to prevent deceptive practices in the marketing of livestock, meat and poultry.

Should the allegations be proven, Miller could be placed under a cease and desist order, similar to a permanent injunction, and may be ordered to pay a civil penalty. Miller's failure to file an answer to this complaint would constitute an admission of all of the material allegations of the complaint.

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News Release

Release No.: 54-00

Contact:
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Poultry Meeting To Be Held In Texarkana, Arkansas

Washington (September 20, 2000) - The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration is holding a series of poultry town hall meetings during this Fall. The first meeting will be held in Texarkana, Ark., on September 26, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. in the REA Building, 3514 East 9th Street, Old Highway 82B.

GIPSA officials will provide an overview of the Agency's poultry activities. An open question and answer period will follow. Participants will have the opportunity to hear more about recently adopted feed weighing regulations, review common contractual terms used throughout the poultry industry, and learn about upcoming actions under consideration. "This is an excellent opportunity for us to learn more about the challenges facing today's growers and for growers and for the industry at large to better understand GIPSA's programs. Please join us." said Jim Baker, Administrator of GIPSA. Additional poultry meeting places and dates are:

- Salisbury, MD 10/3/00 Harrisonburg, VA 10/5/00 Archbold, OH 10/17/00 Moultrie, GA 10/18/00 Athens, GA 10/20/00 Hanciville, AL 10/24/00 Morton, MS 10/26/00 Russellville, AR 10/30/00 Dexter, MO 11/1/00 Fayetteville, NC 11/14/00

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News Release

Release No.: 57-00

Contact:
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Poultry Meeting To Be Held In Salisbury, Maryland

Washington (September 20, 2000) - The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is holding a series of poultry town hall meetings this Fall. The second meeting will be held in Salisbury, Maryland, on October 3, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parkside High School Auditorium, 1015 Beaglin Park Drive.

GIPSA officials will provide an overview of the Agency's poultry activities. An open question and answer period will follow. Participants will have the opportunity to hear more about recently adopted feed weighing regulations, review common contractual terms used throughout the poultry industry, and learn about upcoming actions under consideration. "This is an excellent opportunity for us to learn more about the challenges facing today's growers, and for growers and the industry at large to better understand GIPSA's programs. Please join us," said Jim Baker, administrator of GIPSA.

Additional poultry meeting places and dates are:

- Harrisonburg, VA 10/05/00
- Archbold, OH 10/17/00
- Moultrie, GA 10/18/00
- Athens, GA 10/20/00
- Hanceville, AL 10/24/00
- Morton, MS 10/26/00
- Russellville, AR 10/30/00
- Dexter, MO 11/01/00
- Fayetteville, NC 11/14/00

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News Release

Release No.: 56-00

Contact:
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Poultry Meeting To Be Held In Harrisonburg, Virginia

Washington (September 20, 2000) - The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is holding a series of poultry town hall meetings this Fall. The second meeting will be held in Harrisonburg, Virginia, on October 5, 2000, at 6:00 p.m. in the Eastern Mennonite University, Suter Science Center Building, Room 106, Park Road.

GIPSA officials will provide an overview of the Agency's poultry activities. An open question and answer period will follow. Participants will have the opportunity to hear more about recently adopted feed weighing regulations, review common contractual terms used throughout the poultry industry, and learn about upcoming actions under consideration. "This is an excellent opportunity for us to learn more about the challenges facing today's growers, and for growers and the industry at large to better understand GIPSA's programs. Please join us," said Jim Baker, administrator of GIPSA.

Additional poultry meeting places and dates are:

- Archbold, OH 10/17/00
- Moultrie, GA 10/18/00
- Athens, GA 10/20/00
- Hanceville, AL 10/24/00
- Morton, MS 10/26/00
- Russellville, AR 10/30/00
- Dexter, MO 11/01/00
- Fayetteville, NC 11/14/00

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News Release

Release No.: 58-00

Contact:
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Gateway Livestock Auction, Inc. And Ronnie Arnett Ordered To Stop Livestock Sales

Washington October 3, 2000 -- On September 28, 2000 the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Kentucky, issued a temporary restraining order against Gateway Livestock Auction, Inc. (Gateway) and Ronnie Arnett (Arnett) of Mt. Sterling, Kentucky. The order restrained them from operating as a market agency (auction market) selling livestock on commission. A hearing is scheduled for October 6, 2000, to show cause why a permanent injunction should not be issued.

The court determined that the Secretary of Agriculture had reason to believe that Gateway and Arnett had: (1) failed to comply with the regulation and section of the Packers and Stockyards Act (Act) pertaining to the "maintenance and use of the "Custodial Account for Shippers' Proceeds," a trust account;" and (2) "otherwise operated in . . . a manner which may reasonably be expected to cause irreparable damage to another person." And, that it would be in the public interest to make defendants (Gateway and Arnett) cease from operating as a market agency under the Act.

Gateway's sale days are Wednesday and Saturday. Gateway is prohibited from holding their regular Saturday sale on September 30, 2000, and the regular sale on the following Wednesday, October 4, 2000, pending the outcome of the October 6 hearing. The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that is designed to prevent unfair and deceptive practices in the marketing of livestock, meat and poultry.

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News Release

Release No.: 62-00

Contact:
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Poultry Meeting To Be Held In Wauseon, Ohio

Washington (October 5, 2000) - The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is holding a series of poultry town hall meetings. The next meeting will be held in Wauseon, Ohio, on October 18, 2000, at 3:00 p.m. in Smith's Restaurant, Route 108, Exit 34-3 Ohio Turnpike.

GIPSA officials will provide an overview of the Agency's poultry activities. An open question and answer period will follow. Participants will have the opportunity to hear more about the recently adopted feed weighing regulation, review common contractual terms used throughout the poultry industry, and learn about upcoming actions under consideration. "This is an excellent opportunity for us to learn more about the challenges facing today's growers, and for growers and the industry at large to better understand GIPSA's programs. Please join us," said Jim Baker, Administrator of GIPSA.

Additional poultry meeting places and dates are:

- Morton, MS 10/26/00
- Russellville, AR 10/30/00
- Dexter, MO 11/01/00
- Fayetteville, NC 11/14/00
- Hanceville, AL 11/16/00

Correction to GIPSA Release #61-00

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News Release

Release No.: 60-00

Contact:
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Poultry Meeting To Be Held In Moultrie, Georgia

Washington (October 5, 2000) - The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is holding a series of poultry town hall meetings. The next meeting will be held in Moultrie, Georgia, on October 18, 2000, at 9:00 a.m. in the Sunbelt Expo Agricultural Exposition, West Exhibitor Lounge, 290-G Harper Boulevard.

GIPSA officials will provide an overview of the Agency's poultry activities. An open question and answer period will follow. Participants will have the opportunity to hear more about the recently adopted feed weighing regulation, review common contractual terms used throughout the poultry industry, and learn about upcoming actions under consideration. "This is an excellent opportunity for us to learn more about the challenges facing today's growers, and for growers and the industry at large to better understand GIPSA's programs. Please join us," said Jim Baker, Administrator of GIPSA.

Additional poultry meeting places and dates are:

- Wauseon, OH 10/18/00
- Morton, MS 10/26/00
- Russellville, AR 10/30/00
- Dexter, MO 11/01/00
- Fayetteville, NC 1/14/00
- Hanceville, AL 11/16/00

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News Release

Release No.: 59-00

Contact:
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Poultry Meeting To Be Held In Jefferson, Georgia

Washington (October 5, 2000) - The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is holding a series of poultry town hall meetings. The next meeting will be held in Jefferson, Georgia, on October 16, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. in the Jackson EMC Building, 850 Commerce Highway.

GIPSA officials will provide an overview of the Agency's poultry activities. An open question and answer period will follow. Participants will have the opportunity to hear more about recently adopted feed weighing regulation, review common contractual terms used throughout the poultry industry, and learn about upcoming actions under consideration. "This is an excellent opportunity for us to learn more about the challenges facing today's growers, and for growers and the industry at large to better understand GIPSA's programs. Please join us," said Jim Baker, Administrator of GIPSA.

Additional poultry meeting places and dates are:

- Moultrie, GA 10/18/00
- Wauseon, OH 10/18/00
- Morton, MS 10/26/00
- Russellville, AR 10/30/00
- Dexter, MO 11/01/00
- Fayetteville, NC 11/14/00
- Hanceville, AL 11/16/00

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News Release

Release No.: 66-00

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GIPSA POULTRY MEETING IN WAUSEON, OHIO CANCELLED

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17, 2000 -The Agriculture Department's Grain, Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration is cancelling its poultry meeting scheduled for Oct. 18, 2000 at 3:00 p.m. at Smith's Restaurant in Wauseon, Ohio.

If the meeting is re-scheduled, GIPSA will provide details.

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News Release

Release No.: 65-00

Contact:
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POULTRY MEETING TO BE HELD IN MORTON, MISSISSIPPI

Washington (October 18, 2000) - The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is holding a series of poultry town hall meetings. The next meeting will be held in Morton, Mississippi, on October 26, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. at the Livingston Performing Arts Center, Roosevelt State Park, 2149 Highway 13 South.

GIPSA officials will provide an overview of the Agency's poultry activities. An open question and answer period will follow. Participants will have the opportunity to hear more about the recently adopted feed weighing regulation, review common contractual terms used throughout the poultry industry, and learn about upcoming actions under consideration. "This is an excellent opportunity for us to learn more about the challenges facing today's growers, and for growers and the industry at large to better understand GIPSA's programs. Please join us," said Jim Baker, Administrator of GIPSA.

Additional poultry meeting places and dates are:

- Russellville, AR 10/30/00
- Dexter, MO 11/01/00
- Fayetteville, NC 11/14/00
- Hanceville, AL 11/16/00

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News Release

Release No.: 69-00

Contact:
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POULTRY MEETING TO BE HELD IN FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

Washington (October 19, 2000) - The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is holding a series of poultry town hall meetings. The next meeting will be held in Fayetteville, North Carolina on November 14, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cumberland County Coliseum Complex, Hospitality Room A, 301 East Mount Drive.

GIPSA officials will provide an overview of the Agency's poultry activities. An open question and answer period will follow. Participants will have the opportunity to hear more about the recently adopted feed weighing regulation, review common contractual terms used throughout the poultry industry, and learn about upcoming actions under consideration. "This is an excellent opportunity for us to learn more about the challenges facing today's growers, and for growers and the industry at large to better understand GIPSA's programs. Please join us," said Jim Baker, Administrator of GIPSA.

Additional poultry meeting place and date is: Hanceville, AL 11/16/00

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News Release

Release No.: 68-00

Contact:
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POULTRY MEETING TO BE HELD IN DEXTER, MISSOURI

Washington (October 19, 2000) - The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is holding a series of poultry town hall meetings. The next meeting will be held in Dexter, Missouri on November 1, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. at the UAW Local 1930 Union Hall, 405 West Park Lane.

GIPSA officials will provide an overview of the Agency's poultry activities. An open question and answer period will follow. Participants will have the opportunity to hear more about the recently adopted feed weighing regulation, review common contractual terms used throughout the poultry industry, and learn about upcoming actions under consideration. "This is an excellent opportunity for us to learn more about the challenges facing today's growers, and for growers and the industry at large to better understand GIPSA's programs. Please join us," said Jim Baker, Administrator of GIPSA.

Additional poultry meeting places and dates are:

Fayetteville, NC 11/14/00
Hanceville, AL 11/16/00

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News Release

Release No.: 64-00

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GIPSA Rapid Response Team Facilitates Payment for Livestock Sellers

Washington DC (October 19, 2000) On September 26, the USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration began receiving complaints that Supreme Beef Packers, Inc. (Supreme), Dallas, Texas, a cow slaughterer, had failed to pay for livestock purchased for slaughter. Supreme filed for bankruptcy on September 25, 2000. GIPSA immediately dispatched a Rapid Response Team to conduct a packer trust investigation.

Under the Packers and Stockyards Act, a Federal statute, packers are required to pay, by the close of the next business day, for their livestock purchases. The Act requires packers who purchase livestock on a cash basis to hold accounts receivables, inventory and proceeds derived therefrom in trust for the benefit of the unpaid cash sellers.

The Team determined that there were 98 unpaid cash sellers of livestock owed over \$800,000. Notice of the sellers' trust interests were provided by GIPSA to the packer's financier and to the bankruptcy court. On September 28, 2000, Supreme petitioned the court for permission to use cash collateral to pay livestock sellers. By order of the court, a special account was opened by Supreme and funded to pay the sellers. Supreme used the information provided by GIPSA's Team to make payments as directed by the court order.

Early intervention and the full cooperation of the USDA's Office of General Counsel facilitated full payment of all livestock sellers by October 9, 2000.

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News Release

Release No.: 67-00

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POULTRY MEETING TO BE HELD IN RUSSELLVILLE, ARKANSAS

Washington (October 19, 2000) - The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is holding a series of poultry town hall meetings. The next meeting will be held in Russellville, Arkansas on October 30, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. at the Arkansas Tech University, Chambers Cafeteria on 204 West O Street.

GIPSA officials will provide an overview of the Agency's poultry activities. An open question and answer period will follow. Participants will have the opportunity to hear more about the recently adopted feed weighing regulation, review common contractual terms used throughout the poultry industry, and learn about upcoming actions under consideration. "This is an excellent opportunity for us to learn more about the challenges facing today's growers, and for growers and the industry at large to better understand GIPSA's programs. Please join us," said Jim Baker, Administrator of GIPSA.

Additional poultry meeting places and dates are:

- Dexter, MO 11/01/00
- Fayetteville, NC 11/14/00
- Hanceville, AL 11/16/00

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News Release

Release No.: 70-00

Contact:
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POULTRY MEETING TO BE HELD IN HANCEVILLE, ALABAMA

Washington (October 25, 2000) - The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is holding a series of poultry town hall meetings. The next and final meeting will be held in Hanceville, Alabama, on November 16, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. at the James C. Bailey Center Auditorium at Wallace State College, Highway 31 in Hanceville.

GIPSA officials will provide an overview of the Agency's poultry activities. An open question and answer period will follow. Participants will have the opportunity to hear more about the recently adopted feed weighing regulation, review common contractual terms used throughout the poultry industry, and learn about upcoming actions under consideration. "This is an excellent opportunity for us to learn more about the challenges facing today's growers, and for growers and the industry at large to better understand GIPSA's programs. Please join us," said Jim Baker, Administrator of GIPSA.

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