

Contents

FEDERAL GRAIN INSPECTION SERVICE

GIPSA Verifies Performance of Test Kit to Detect CP4 EPSPS in Corn.....	4
GIPSA Verifies Performance of Test Kit to Detect CP4 EPSPS in Corn.....	5
GIPSA Verifies Performance of Test Kit to Detect Aflatoxin in Corn.....	6
GIPSA Seeks Quantitative Ochratoxin A Test Kits.....	7
Secretary Johanns Names Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Members and Alternates	8
Chebense Grain, Inc., Pays Penalty to Settle USDA Charges	9
USDA Seeks Public Comment on Soybean Standards.....	10
GIPSA Adopts Final Rule to Improve Clear Title Program for America’s Farmers	11
USDA Grain Inspection Advisory Committee to Meet.....	12
GIPSA Official Designation Activities.....	13
GIPSA Approves Test Kits to Detect Zearalenone.....	14
U.S. Soybean Standards to Change on September 1.....	15
GIPSA Approves Charm Rosa® DON (Quantitative) Test to Detect Deoxynivalenol (DON) in Wheat ..	16
USDA Seeks Public Comment on Ethanol Standards.....	17
GIPSA Adopts Final Rule Amending Sorghum Standards	19
USDA Reopens Comment Period on the United States Standards for Soybeans	20
GIPSA VERIFIES PERFORMANCE OF TEST KIT TO DETECT DON IN WHEAT AND BARLEY	21
GIPSA APPROVES R-BIOPHARM RIDASCREEN® FAST SC AFLATOXIN SC TEST KIT	22
GIPSA Official Designation Activities.....	23
USDA Reopens Public Comment on Ethanol Standards	24
GIPSA’s Grain Inspection Advisory Committee to Meet.....	26
GIPSA Designation Activities.....	27

GIPSA

GIPSA Recieves OPM Benchmark Award for Excellence in Leading Change.....	29
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PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS PROGRAM

USDA Charges Smithfield Beef Group, Inc., with Violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act	30
USDA Orders James T. Harmon, dba J.H. Cattle Company to Cease and Desist.....	31
USDA Charges Benton Packing Company, Inc., with Violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act	32
USDA Charges J. Edward Diehl Failed to Pay the Full Purchase Price of Livestock.....	33
USDA Releases Final Livestock and Meat Marketing Report	34
USDA Suspends Philip O. Mattes, Jr. d/b/a R or M Cattle Company Registration for 5 Years	36
USDA Suspends Charles Ronald Powell, as a Registrant Under the Packers and Stockyards Act	37
USDA Orders Andrew Pudliner, d/b/a/ Pudliner Packing to Cease and Desist	38
USDA Charges Wharton Livestock Auction, Inc. and Herman W. (Billy) Schwertner with	39
Unfair and Deceptive Practices	39
USDA Charges Leroy Keaton and Todd Keaton, d/b/a Keaton Cattle Co. with Violations of	40
the Packers and Stockyards Act.....	40
USDA Charges Kent Frisell with Violating the Packers and Stockyards Act	41
USDA Charges Jim L. Leslie Owes Livestock Sellers \$402,420.84	42
USDA Charges Gainesville Livestock Market, Inc., and Milton Ward Misused Its Custodial Account....	43
USDA Charges Baker & Baker Livestock with Violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act	44
USDA Charges Monticello Livestock Sales with Violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act	45
USDA Charges Dane Fine Meat Packing with Violating the Packers and Stockyards Act.....	46
USDA Charges Atlas Cattle Company with Failure to Pay for Livestock Purchases.....	47
USDA Charges Bobby T. Tindel with Failure to Pay When Due.....	49
USDA Assesses Muenster Livestock Auction Commission, Inc. a Civil Penalty of \$24,000	50
USDA Assesses American Family Farms, Inc. a Civil Penalty of \$50,000	52
USDA Orders Nicholas Meat Packing and Eugene A. Nicholas to Cease and Desist	53
USDA Orders Atlantic Veal and Lamb Inc., Philip Peerless and Martin Weiner to Cease and Desist....	54
USDA Assesses Wharton Livestock Auction, Inc., a Civil Penalty of \$22,500	55
USD Suspends Edward M. Baker, d/b/a/ Baker & Baker Livestock for a Period of Five Years.....	56
USDA Suspends Russell M. Frederick, d/b/a Atlas Cattle Company for a Period of Five Years.....	57
USDA Orders Garry E. Richerson to Cease and Desist.....	59

News Release Archive

2007

GIPSA Implements New Rules for Resolving Violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act	60
USDA Charges Randall Bond with Violating the Packers and Stockyards Act.....	62
USDA Charges Cargill Meat Solutions Corporation with Violating the Packers andMStockyards Act ...	63
USDA Suspends London Auction Barn, Inc.	64
USDA Assesses Leroy Keaton and Todd Keaton, D/B/A Keaton Cattle Co. a Civil Penalty.....	65
GIPSA Charges SW Livestock Exchange, Inc. with Violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act.....	66
USDA Orders J. Edward Diehl to Cease and Desist	67
GIPSA Charges Ty Wayne McMurtry with Violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act.....	68
GIPSA Charges Express Meats with Violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act.....	69
GIPSA Charges Rababeh Islamic Slaughterhouse, Inc. with Operating without a Bond	70
GIPSA Charges KO Cattle Co. with Violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act	71
Meadowbrook Farms Cooperative Charged with Restraining Commerce	72
GIPSA Assesses United Producers, Inc. a Civil Penalty of \$96,000	73
GIPSA's New Enforcement Rule Results in Quicker Resolution of Violation Cases	74
Bobby T. Tindel is Ordered to Cease and Desist.....	76
USDA Orders Randall Bond to Cease and Desist.....	77
Madison Livestock Sales, LLC is Assessed a Civil Penalty.....	78
Gary Goldberger is Assessed a Civil Penalty of \$15,000	79
GIPSA Charges Lonnie Martin with Violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act.....	80
GIPSA Charges Lee Johnson with Violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act.....	81
GIPSA Charges Forester's 4-F Cattle Co., Inc. with Violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act	82
GIPSA Charges Hominy Livestock with Violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act	83
GIPSA Charges Billy Mike Gentry with Violating the Packers and Stockyards Act	84
PM Beef Holdings, LLC to Pay \$24,000 Fine	85
USDA Proposes Changes to Regulations Governing Poultry Contracts	86
USDA CHANGES VOLUME DISCOUNT GUIDELINES	87
GIPSA Honors Employees Receiving USDA Secretary's Honor Award	88



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News Release

Release No.: 24-07

Contact:
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GIPSA Verifies Performance of Test Kit to Detect CP4 EPSPS in Corn

WASHINGTON, DC (March 26, 2007) - The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration today announced it verified that Agdia, Inc. Roundup Ready (CP4 EPSPS) ImmunoStrip™ Test, #STX 74000 qualitative lateral flow strip kit to detect the presence of one kernel of CP4 EPSPS corn in 1000 kernels in 20 minutes (test strip development time).

GIPSA verified the test kit as part of its Test Kit Evaluation Program, which verifies the performance of commercial test kits in order to ensure that reliable, rapid tests are commercially available.

CP4 EPSPS is a protein that indicates the presence of Roundup herbicide resistance.

GIPSA administrator James E. Link said that GIPSA's evaluation of this test will help the U.S. grain market make more informed decisions about grain being bought and sold.

For information on GIPSA's Rapid Test Performance Evaluation Program and Proficiency Program, visit GIPSA's web page at <http://archive.gipsa.usda.gov/referencelibrary/directives/9181-2.pdf>. For technical information on test kit performance evaluation, contact Lynn Polston, GIPSA Technical Services Division, 816-891-0444, or by e-mail at Lynn.A.Polston@usda.gov.

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News Release

Release No.: 28-07

Contact:
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GIPSA Verifies Performance of Test Kit to Detect Aflatoxin in Corn

WASHINGTON, DC (April 18, 2007) - The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration today announced it verified Diachemix, LLC, Aflatoxin FPA Test, Product# 61545, qualitative fluorescence polarization test kit, which detects the presence of total aflatoxins at a threshold of 20 parts per billion (ppb) in corn in 2 minutes (total incubation time).

GIPSA verified the test kit as part of its Test Kit Evaluation Program, which verifies the performance of commercial test kits in order to ensure that reliable, rapid tests are commercially available.

GIPSA administrator James Link said that GIPSA's evaluation of this test will help the U.S. grain market make more informed decisions about the grain being bought and sold.

For information on GIPSA's Rapid Test Performance Evaluation Program and Proficiency Program, visit GIPSA's web page at <http://archive.gipsa.usda.gov/referencelibrary/directives/9181-2.pdf>. For technical information on test kit performance evaluation, contact Lynn Polston, GIPSA Technical Services Division, 816-891-0444, or by e-mail at Lynn.A.Polston@usda.gov.

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News Release

Release No.: 30-07

Contact:
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GIPSA Seeks Quantitative Ochratoxin A Test Kits

Washington, D.C. (April 18, 2007) - The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is soliciting commercial test kits for the quantitative determination of ochratoxin A in grains and commodities. Kits found by GIPSA to conform to performance and design criteria will be eligible for use in the national inspection system.

Ochratoxin A is a toxin produced by a mold and can be present in wheat, corn, sorghum, and other grains.

Manufacturers interested in seeking a GIPSA certification must submit data to demonstrate their test kit meets GIPSA's design criteria and test performance specifications. GIPSA will evaluate the performance of each test kit, and issue a Certificate of Conformance for test kits that meet the criteria. Certified kits are eligible to be used in the national inspection system.

According to GIPSA administrator James Link, the official system relies on test kits to provide quick and accurate mycotoxin analyses at a low price.

Performance evaluation documentation and technical information is available from Lynn Polston, GIPSA Technical Services Division, 816-891-0444, or by e-mail at Lynn.A.Polston@usda.gov.

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News Release

Release No.: 120-07

Contact:
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Secretary Johanns Names Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Members and Alternates

WASHINGTON, April 27, 2007 - Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns today announced the appointment of five members and seven alternate members to serve on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection Advisory Committee. The appointees will serve three year terms.

The new members are: Chester Boruff, chief executive officer, Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies, Moline, Ill.; William L. Dumoulin, farmer/owner, Dumoulin Farms, Hampshire, Ill.; Nicholas R. Friant, grain handling coordinator, Cargill, Wayzata, Minn.; Jerry Gibson, regional manager, Bunge North America, Destrehan, La.; and Edgar Hicks, grain marketing advisor, Hurley/FC Stone LCC, Omaha, Neb.

The new alternate members are: Rudy Arrendondo, president/CEO, National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association, Washington, D.C.; Warren J. Duffy, Jr., vice-president, export operations, ADM, Ama, La.; Thomas L. Fousek, grain merchant/ manager, Bartlett Grain, L.P.; Kansas City, Mo.; Dan W. Gross, president, East Indiana Grain Inspection Inc., Muncie, Ind.; Arvid Lee Hawk, president, Global Agricultural Consultants, LLC, Eden Prairie, Minn.; Donnie R. Love, plant superintendent, ADM, Ama, La.; and Brian K. Sorenson, technical directors, Northern Crops Institute, Fargo, N.D.

The Grain Inspection Advisory Committee is comprised of 15 members and 15 alternate members appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture who represent all facets of the grain industry. The Committee meets twice annually to advise USDA on the establishment of programs and services under the U.S. Grain Standards Act.

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News Release

Release No.: 37-07

Contact:
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Chebense Grain, Inc., Pays Penalty to Settle USDA Charges

WASHINGTON, DC, April 30, 2007 - Chebense Grain, Inc., Chebense, IL agreed to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty to settle an enforcement action brought by USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA).

Chebense was charged with deceptively loading two railcars of corn and attempting to cause the issuance of false official grain inspection certificates. Such action is a violation of the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA), 7 U.S.C. 87b.

The complaint filed against Chebense was the result of an investigation conducted by GIPSA under the authority of the USGSA. The USGSA provides for the establishment of U.S. grain standards, and for the official inspection and weighing of grain shipped in domestic and international commerce.

GIPSA facilitates the marketing of livestock, poultry, meat, cereals, oilseeds, and related agricultural products, and promotes fair and competitive trading practices for the overall benefit of consumers and American agriculture.

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News Release

Release No.: 40-07

Contact:
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USDA Seeks Public Comment on Soybean Standards

WASHINGTON, DC (May 7, 2007) - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) today published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) in the Federal Register seeking public comment on any changes needed to the United States Standards for Soybeans to ensure their effectiveness and responsiveness to current grain industry needs.

The ANPR solicitation is part of a comprehensive GIPSA review of the United States Standards for Soybeans.

The standards define U.S. soybean quality in the global marketplace. They include definitions, the basic principles governing application of standards, such as the type of sample used for a particular quality analysis, grades and grade requirements, and special grades and special grade requirements.

"There have been many changes in the breeding and production of soybeans; the technology used to harvest, process, and test soybeans; and the marketing of soybeans," said GIPSA Administrator James E. Link. "We are carrying out this review to ensure the soybean standards continue to effectively facilitate marketing."

All interested parties are invited to submit comments and supporting information to aid in GIPSA's evaluation of current standards and grading practices for soybeans, and in the development of any recommendations for change.

Comments must be received by July 2, 2007. Comments may be submitted via email to comments.gipsa@usda.gov; regular mail, courier, or hand delivery to Tess Butler, GIPSA, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 1647-S, Washington, DC, 20250-3604; fax to (202) 690-2755; or via the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

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News Release

Release No.: 01-07

Contact:
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GIPSA Adopts Final Rule to Improve Clear Title Program for America's Farmers

WASHINGTON, May 11, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) adopts the final rule to modify the clear title, allowing for electronic transfer of lien notices and simplifying farm product descriptions.

Lenders are no longer required to obtain authorized signatures on effective financing statements (EFS) and related documents. The electronic transfer will authenticate the EFS, saving both time and money. Farm product descriptions now only have to indicate where the product was produced rather than where it was produced and located. In addition to increasing efficiency, the modifications allow States to use a unique identifier, rather than a social security number, as an alternative to protect farm producers from identity theft.

"USDA continues to ensure America's farmers have the capability to compete globally in the 21st century," said GIPSA Administrator James Link. "Amending the clear title act protects privacy while improving our program delivery."

Clear title programs are implemented in 19 States serving producers and purchasers of farm products as a database to check for liens. GIPSA administers the clear title program for the Secretary of Agriculture. The program is authorized by Section 1324 of the Food Security Act of 1985 and requires States' implementation of a central filing system to notify the public of liens on farm products. The final rule changes GIPSA's clear title regulations by allowing States that use debtors' social security numbers instead use approved unique identifiers.

"Improving our efficiency and simplifying our procedures is part of GIPSA's ongoing effort to better serve America's agricultural producers," said GIPSA Administrator James Link.

GIPSA facilitates the marketing of livestock, poultry, meat, cereals, oilseeds, and related agricultural products, and promotes fair and competitive trading practices for the overall benefit of consumers and American agriculture. The clear title final rule was published in the Federal Register on May 8, 2007. For more information, visit the GIPSA web site at:

<http://www.gipsa.usda.gov>. Peter Fullerton, 202-720-0046



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News Release

Release No.: 43-07

Contact:
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USDA Grain Inspection Advisory Committee to Meet

Washington, DC, May 17, 2007-- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's Grain Inspection Advisory Committee will meet June 12-13, 2007, in Kansas City, Missouri.

The Committee meeting will take place from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., June 12, 2007, and 8 a.m.-1 p.m., June 13, 2007, at the Hampton Inn and Suites, Country Club Plaza, 4600 Summit, Kansas City, Missouri 64112.

The Advisory Committee provides advice to the Administrator of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) with respect to the implementation of the U.S. Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 71 et seq.). For more information about the Advisory Committee go to the GIPSA Web site: www.gipsa.usda.gov and click on "Learn About the Advisory Committee" in the "I Want To" section.

The agenda will include discussions about the agency's financial status, oversight and quality management for the official inspection system, service delivery and operations, the pilot study to contract for export service provision and supplemental labor, international market facilitation initiatives, GIPSA's role in the ethanol market, and the relevance of the official standards for soybeans and other products.

The public may submit comments through written statements or ask to address the Committee during the meeting by writing to: Administrator, GIPSA, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 3601, Washington, DC 20250-3601. Requests and comments may also be faxed to (202) 690-2173.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication of program information or related accommodations, or those wishing to request an agenda, please contact Terri Henry, telephone (202) 205-8281 or FAX (202) 690-2173.

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News Release

Release No.: 44-07

Contact:
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GIPSA Official Designation Activities

Washington, DC, June 1, 2007- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) today announced the following actions on designations for entities to officially inspect and weigh grain on behalf of GIPSA in specified areas in Indiana, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, and Texas. The entities were designated to inspect and weigh grains based upon a comprehensive selection process.

GIPSA is asking for applicants to provide official services in Columbus, Ohio; Farwell, Texas; and Northeast Indiana. GIPSA is asking for applications from new or existing service providers and comments about the current service providers by July 1, 2007.

GIPSA has designated East Indiana Grain Inspection, Inc. (East Indiana), Fremont Grain Inspection Department, Inc. (Fremont), and Titus Grain Inspection, Inc. (Titus) to inspect grain effective July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2010. State Grain Inspection Inc. (State) is designated to inspect grain effective July 1, 2007, through December 31, 2008. For official grain inspection services, contact East Indiana at 765-289-1206, Fremont at 402-721-1270, Titus at 765-497- 2202, and State Grain at 952-808-8566.

For further information contact Idelisse Rodriguez at 202-720-5688, fax 202-690-2755 or e-mail

Idelisse.rodriguez@usda.gov.

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News Release

Release No.: 01-07

Contact:
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GIPSA Approves Test Kits to Detect Zearalenone

WASHINGTON, June 22, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has approved two test kits for the official testing of zearalenone in the national grain inspection system: the Charm Sciences Inc. ROSA® Zearalenone quantitative test kit and the R-Biopharm, Inc., Ridascreen® FAST SC Zearalenone (Quantitative) test kit.

Zearalenone is a toxin produced by a mold and can be present in corn and other grains. GIPSA's approval of these kits expands the choice of zearalenone test kits in the national grain inspection system.

GIPSA approved the official use of the Charm Sciences Inc. ROSA Zearalenone test kit, Product #LF-ZEARQ, to determine zearalenone levels in distillers dried grains with solubles, milled rice, sorghum, and wheat.

GIPSA approved the official use of the Ridascreen® FAST SC Zearalenone (Quantitative) test kit, Product #R5505, to determine zearalenone levels in corn.

Technical information: Lynn Polston, GIPSA Technical Services Division, 816-891-0444, or by e-mail at Lynn.A.Polston@usda.gov.

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News Release

Release No.: 55-07

Contact:
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U.S. Soybean Standards to Change on September 1

WASHINGTON, June 27, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is reminding market participants that several changes to the U.S. Standards for Soybeans will become effective on September 1. Specifically, soybean test weight will become a non-grade determining, informational factor rather than a grade-determining factor. In addition, soybean test weight will be reported to the nearest tenth of a pound, instead of in whole and half pounds with a fraction of a half pound disregarded.

As an informational factor, test weight analysis will remain a grading service and be reported on official certificates, unless the applicant for service requests otherwise.

The changes to the U.S. Standards for soybeans were announced in the September 6, 2006, Federal Register (Volume 71, No. 172).

For further information and technical questions please contact Marianne Plaus at 202-720-9170.

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News Release

Release No.: 56-07

Contact:
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GIPSA Approves Charm Rosa® DON (Quantitative) Test Kit to Detect Deoxynivalenol (DON) in Wheat

WASHINGTON, July 2, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration today approved Charm Sciences, Inc., ROSA® DON (Quantitative) test kit, quantitative lateral flow strip kit for official testing of deoxynivalenol (DON) 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.

GIPSA has now approved the official use of the ROSA® DON (Quantitative) test kit, Product # LF-DONQ, to determine levels of DON in wheat. Approval of this kit expands the choice of DON test kits available to the national inspection system.

Technical information: Lynn Polston, GIPSA Technical Services Division, 816-891-0444, or by e-mail at Lynn.A.Polston@usda.gov.

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News Release

Release No.: 70-07

Contact:
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USDA Seeks Public Comment on Ethanol Standards

WASHINGTON, July 20, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) today published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) in the Federal Register seeking public comment on whether there is a market need for USDA to establish additional grain quality standards to better describe the type and quality of grain purchased for ethanol production, such as, differentiating corn with a high total fermentable starch content from other corn types.

USDA is also asking whether there is a market need for standards to describe the type and quality of feedstuff produced during the ethanol production process and marketed as various forms of distillers grains. During fermentation, grain starch is converted to ethanol and the remaining nutrients, such as protein, fat, minerals and vitamins end up as distillers grains or condensed distillers solubles. These co-products, such as distillers dried grains (DDG) and distillers dried grains with solubles (DDGS) are often sold as animal feed.

"We have monitored the development of this rapidly expanding industry and now is the appropriate time to seek stakeholder advice in order to foster collaboration among segments of the industry to support the marketing of ethanol co-products," said GIPSA Administrator James E. Link.

Distillers grains are typically marketed to feed formulators and livestock producers for livestock feeding, primarily for beef, dairy, pork and poultry. One bushel of corn or about 56 pounds produces approximately 2.8 gallons of ethanol and 17 pounds of distillers grains. In 2006 1.8 billion bushels of corn produced 4.9 billion gallons of ethanol and over 26 billion pounds of distillers dried grains.

All interested parties are invited to submit comments and supporting information to aid in GIPSA's evaluation on how we can best facilitate the marketing of distillers grains in today's evolving marketplace. We are seeking comment on market needs and the feasibility and desirability of GIPSA's programs to facilitate the marketing of ethanol co-products.



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Comments must be received by September 18, 2007. Comments may be submitted via email to comments.gipsa@usda.gov; regular mail, courier, or hand delivery to Tess Butler, GIPSA, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 1647-S, Washington, DC, 20250-3604; fax to (202) 690-2755; or via the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

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News Release

Release No.: 71-07

Contact:
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GIPSA Adopts Final Rule Amending Sorghum Standards

WASHINGTON, July 20, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) today announced revisions to the United States Standards for Sorghum to better describe the types of grain sorghum produced by American farmers and to reduce the allowable levels of broken sorghum kernels and foreign material in the various quality grades of sorghum. The revisions to the standards become effective on June 1, 2008.

Grain sorghum is the third most important cereal crop grown in the United States. Nearly 50 percent of the grain sorghum produced by American farmers is exported around the world for use as food and animal feed. In many parts of the world sorghum is used in food products and various food items; porridge, unleavened bread, cookies, cakes, couscous, and malted beverages are made from this versatile grain. Domestically, sorghum is used primarily as animal feed with a lesser amount moving into food marketing channels and, more recently, into ethanol production.

According to GIPSA administrator James E. Link, the changes being announced will promote the marketing of higher quality sorghum and facilitate both domestic and international grain sorghum trade.

The final rule amending the U.S. Standards for Sorghum was published in today's Federal Register.

For further information, contact Patrick McCluskey at (816) 823-4639.

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News Release

Release No.: 72-07

Contact:
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USDA Reopens Comment Period on the United States Standards for Soybeans

WASHINGTON, July 24, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration is reopening the comment period on the United States Standards for Soybeans for an additional 30 days until August 20, 2007. GIPSA published an advance notice of proposed rulemaking in the Federal Register on May 1, 2007, (72 FR 23775), initiating a review of the soybean standards to determine their effectiveness and responsiveness to current grain industry needs. The comment period closed on July 2, 2007. GIPSA is reopening the comment period to provide interested parties with additional time in which to comment.

This solicitation is part of a comprehensive GIPSA review of the United States Standards for Soybeans.

The standards define U.S. soybean quality in the global marketplace. They include definitions, the basic principles governing application of standards, such as the type of sample used for a particular quality analysis, grades and grade requirements, and special grades and special grade requirements.

"There have been many changes in the breeding and production of soybeans; the technology used to harvest, process, and test soybeans; and the marketing of soybeans," said GIPSA administrator James E. Link. "We are reopening the comment period for interested parties to provide input on how the soybean standards can best continue to effectively facilitate marketing."

GIPSA will consider comments received by August 20, 2007. Comments may be submitted via email to comments.gipsa@usda.gov; regular mail, courier, or hand delivery to Tess Butler, GIPSA, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 1647-S, Washington, DC, 20250-3604; fax to (202) 690-2755; or via the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

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News Release

Release No.: 01-07

Contact:
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GIPSA VERIFIES PERFORMANCE OF TEST KIT TO DETECT DON (DEOXYNIVALENOL) IN WHEAT AND BARLEY

WASHINGTON, Aug. 03, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration today announced the verification of Neogen Corporation Agri-Screen® DON Screening Test kit, Product #8310 qualitative competitive direct enzymelinked immunosorbent assay (CD-ELISA) kit. The screening test kit detects the presence of DON (deoxynivalenol) at a threshold of 1 part per million in wheat and barley.

"Verification of this test will help the U.S. grain market make more informed decisions about the grain being bought and sold" said GIPSA Administrator James Link.

Deoxynivalenol, or DON, is a toxin produced by a mold and can be present in wheat, barley, corn and other grains. While the U.S. Government does not require testing, a DON test requirement is a common specification in domestic and international grain contracts.

For information on GIPSA's Rapid Test Performance Evaluation Program and Proficiency Program, visit GIPSA's Web page at archive.gipsa.usda.gov/reference-library/directives/9181-2.pdf.

For technical information on test kit performance evaluation, contact Lynn Polston, GIPSA Technical Services Division, (816) 891-0444 or by e-mail at Lynn.A.Polston@usda.gov.

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GIPSA Release # 74-07



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News Release

Release No.: 73-07

Contact:
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GIPSA APPROVES R-BIOPHARM RIDASCREEN® FAST SC AFLATOXIN SC TEST KIT TO DETECT AFLATOXIN IN RICE BRAN

WASHINGTON, Aug. 03, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) today approved the R-Biopharm, Inc., Ridascreen® FAST Aflatoxin SC quantitative test kit, Product # R6001, for the official testing of rice bran for total aflatoxins in the national grain inspection system.

"Approval to test additional commodities using this kit expands the choice of aflatoxin test kits available to the national grain inspection system," said GIPSA Administrator James E. Link.

The kit was previously approved for use on corn, cracked corn, corn flour, corn germ meal, corn gluten meal, corn meal, corn soy blend, distillers dried grains with solubles, popcorn, sorghum, soybeans, and wheat.

Aflatoxins are a toxin produced by a mold and can be present in corn, sorghum, and other grains.

Technical information: Lynn Polston, GIPSA Technical Services Division, (816)891-0444 or email Lynn.A.Polston@usda.gov.

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News Release

Release No.: 77-07

Contact:
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GIPSA Official Designation Activities

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announced designation of entities to officially inspect and weigh grain in specified areas in Arizona, California, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota and Texas. The entities were designated to inspect and weigh grains based upon a comprehensive selection process.

GIPSA is asking for applicants to provide official services in Casa Grande, Arizona; Bloomington, Illinois; Iowa Falls, Iowa; Owensboro, Kentucky; Fargo, North Dakota; Grand Forks, North Dakota and Plainview, Texas. GIPSA is asking for applications and comments about the current service providers by Oct. 4, 2007.

GIPSA has designated the following entities to inspect grain effective October 1, 2007 through Sept. 30, 2010:

- Amarillo Grain Exchange, Inc. - 806-372-8511
- Cairo Grain Inspection Agency, Inc. - 618-734-0689
- Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry - 337-948-0230
- North Carolina Department of Agriculture - 919-733-4491
- D. R. Schaal Agency, Inc - 641-444-3122

The Amarillo Grain Exchange, Inc. has asked GIPSA to amend their designation to exclude nineteen counties in north central Texas. GIPSA is asking for applicants to provide official services in that region. Applications are due by Oct. 4, 2007.

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

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News Release

Release No.: 78-07

Contact:
Terry Henry, 202-205-8281
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USDA Reopens Public Comment on Ethanol Standards

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) today extended the public comment period for 60 days on the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the Federal Register. USDA is seeking comments on whether there is a market need for GIPSA's role in differentiating grain attributes for ethanol production, as well as standardizing the testing of co-products of ethanol production, commonly referred to as "distillers dried grains."

GIPSA Administrator James E. Link said USDA is seeking comment on the market need to offer GIPSA testing services to better describe the type and quality of grain purchased and the feedstuff produced for ethanol production and marketed as various forms of distillers grains.

During fermentation, grain starch is converted to ethanol and the remaining nutrients, such as protein, fat, minerals and vitamins end up as distillers dried grains or condensed distillers solubles. These co-products are often sold as animal feed.

Distillers grains are typically marketed to feed formulators and livestock producers for livestock feeding, primarily for beef, dairy, pork and poultry. One bushel of corn or about 56 pounds produces approximately 2.8 gallons of ethanol and 17 pounds of distillers grains. 25 percent of the 2007 corn crop will go to ethanol - about 9.3 billion gallons, up from 5.9 billion gallons in 2006.

All interested parties are invited to submit comments and supporting information to aid in GIPSA's evaluation on how to best facilitate the marketing of distillers grains in today's evolving marketplace. GIPSA is seeking comment on market needs and the feasibility and desirability of its programs to facilitate the marketing of ethanol co-products.



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Comments must be received by December 4, 2007. The original comment period of 60 days closed on Sept. 18, 2007. Comments may be submitted via email to comments.gipsa@usda.gov; regular mail, courier or hand delivery to Tess Butler, GIPSA, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Room 1647-S, Washington, D.C. 20250-3604; fax to (202) 690-2755 or via the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov.

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Peter Fullerton (202) 720-0046



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News Release

Release No.: 80-07

Contact:
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GIPSA's Grain Inspection Advisory Committee to Meet

WASHINGTON, Nov. 6, 2007 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's (GIPSA) Grain Inspection Advisory Committee will meet Nov. 28-29, 2007 in Denver, Colo. The Advisory Committee provides advice to the GIPSA Administrator with respect to the implementation of the U.S. Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 71 et seq.). The Committee meeting will take place from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Nov. 28, 2007 and 8:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m., Nov. 29, 2007 at the Westin Tabor Center, 1672 Lawrence St., Denver, CO 80202.

The agenda will include discussions about the agency's financial status; organizational and technological enhancements that are improving service delivery; the pilot study to contract for export service provision and supplemental labor; improvements in the issuance of phytosanitary certification; the Agency's work in assessing wheat functionality; GIPSA's role in the ethanol market and the relevance of the official standards for soybeans and other products.

Public participation will be limited to written statements, unless permission is received from the Committee Chair to orally address the Committee. Requests to address the Committee at the meeting or written comments may be sent to: Administrator, GIPSA, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., STOP 3601, Washington, DC 20250-3601. Requests and comments may also be faxed to (202) 690-2173. The meeting will be open to the public.

For a copy of the agenda or persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication of program information or related accommodations contact Terri Henry who can be reached at (202) 205-8281, by e-mail at Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov or via fax at (202) 690-2173.

Additional information about the Advisory Committee is available on the GIPSA Web site. Go to archive.gipsa.usda.gov and under the section "I Want To", click on "Learn about the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee."



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News Release

Release No.: 01-07

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GIPSA Designation Activities

WASHINGTON, D.C. (December 5, 2007) - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announces the following actions related to designations to officially inspect and weigh grain in specified areas in California, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, and Texas.

- GIPSA is seeking applicants to provide official services in Georgia, Cedar Rapids (Iowa), and Montana. GIPSA is seeking new applicants, as well as applications from and comments from the public about providers currently providing service in those areas by January 2, 2008. The current providers are the Georgia Department of Agriculture (Georgia); Mid-Iowa Grain Inspection, Inc., (Cedar Rapids); and the Montana Department of Agriculture (Montana).
- In response to inquiries and requests for official services in the currently unassigned states of Maryland, New Jersey, and New York, GIPSA is seeking applicants to provide official services in all or part of these states. Interested parties must submit an application for designation by January 2, 2008. GIPSA will designate one or more organizations to provide official services.
- GIPSA is asking for public comments on the entities who have applied to become official service providers in the north central Texas geographic area and the south central California area. Enid Grain Inspection Co., Inc. applied for designation to provide official services in Clay, Wichita, and Wilbarger Counties, Texas. Plainview Grain Inspection and Weighing Service, Inc. applied for designation in Cottle, Hardeman, King, Knox, Baylor, Archer, Stonewall, Haskell, Throckmorton, Fisher, Jones, Shackelford, Nolan, Taylor, Foard, and Callahan counties in Texas. California Agri Inspection Company, Ltd. applied for designation in Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, Inyo, San Luis Obispo, Kern, Orange, Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Bernardino counties, California. All comments are due by January 2, 2008.



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- GIPSA has, through an established, competitive selection process, designated Columbus Grain Inspection, Inc., Farwell Grain Inspection, Inc., and Northeast Indiana Grain Inspection, Inc. to inspect or inspect and weigh grain effective January 1, 2008, through December 31, 2010. For official grain inspection services, contact Columbus at 740-474-3519, Farwell at 806-481-9052, and Northeast Indiana at 337-948-0230.

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



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News Release

Release No.: 82-07

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GIPSA Recieves Office of Personnel Management Benchmark Award for Excellence in Leading Change

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) was presented a 2007 Benchmark Award for Excellence in Leading Change by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). The award was presented at OPM's "Challenges and Successes in Managing Organizational Change" conference in Washington, D.C. on November 28.

"GIPSA is honored to receive this recognition for our commitment to organizational improvement," said Administrator James E. Link. "The Office of Personnel Management change process that we began in 2006 provided us with critical data about our Agency's strengths and weaknesses, and then guided us into an organizational improvement process that continues today."

GIPSA received the Benchmark Award in recognition of the Agency's commitment to the success of the OPM Organizational Assessment Survey and subsequent organizational change processes.

GIPSA administered OPM's Organizational Assessment Survey in 2006 to assess and improve its organizational performance. The survey improves organizational performance by assessing organizational strengths and weaknesses. This provides the basis for effective action planning to determine training and organizational change strategies as well as establishing measures for benchmarking and evaluating change in organizational performance over time.

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News Release

Release No.: 03-07

Contact:
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USDA Charges Smithfield Beef Group, Inc., with Violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act

WASHINGTON, January 23, 2007 - On January 18, 2007, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a complaint and notice of hearing against Smithfield Beef Group, Inc. (Smithfield) of Green Bay, Wisconsin, doing business as Moyer Packing Co., Inc. (Moyer) in Souderton, Pennsylvania. Moyer is a wholly owned subsidiary of Smithfield. Moyer is engaged in the business of buying livestock in commerce for the purpose of slaughter; engaged in the business of manufacturing or preparing meat and meat food products for sale or shipment in commerce; and is a packer subject to the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act.

GIPSA has evidence that Moyer: purchased livestock on a hot carcass weight basis; used a computer program which improperly rounded carcass weights; improperly rounded hot carcass weights and paid livestock producers on those improperly rounded hot carcass weights; and failed to maintain a written record of the properly rounded hot carcass weights.

Failure to file an answer to GIPSA's complaint within the time allowed constitutes an admission of the allegations. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, Moyer may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the P&S Act and be assessed a civil penalty.

The P&S Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.



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News Release

Release No.: 01-07

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USDA Orders James T. Harmon, dba J.H. Cattle Company to Cease and Desist

WASHINGTON, January 29, 2007 - On November 8, 2006, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a consent decision against James T. Harmon (Harmon), a livestock dealer doing business as J.H. Cattle Company, Clovis, New Mexico. The decision suspends Harmon's registration for five years and requires that he cease and desist from: issuing Non Sufficient Funds checks; failing to pay, when due, the full purchase price of livestock; failing to pay the full purchase price of livestock; and engaging in any business in commerce in any capacity for which registration and bonding is required under the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act.

The decision results from a year-long investigation followed by a complaint filed on February 10, 2006, in which GIPSA alleged Harmon: continued to engage in the business of buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account and bought livestock on a commission basis for others without maintaining an active registration or adequate bond coverage as required by the P&S Act and Regulations; failed to pay the full amount due for his livestock purchases within the time period required by the P&S Act; did not have and maintain sufficient funds on deposit and available in the account upon which checks were drawn to pay the checks when presented; and failed to keep livestock purchases and sales invoices, contracts, credit agreements, journals, load make-up sheets, scale tickets and trucking or freight records.

The decision may be modified to terminate the suspension after 150 days if Harmon is in full compliance with the P&S Act and circumstances warrant the termination. The P&S Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.



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News Release

Release No.: 02-07

Contact:
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USDA Charges Benton Packing Company, Inc., and Arthur F. “Tinker” Green with Violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act

WASHINGTON, January 29 2007 - On January 19, 2007, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration filed a complaint and notice of hearing against Benton Packing Company, Inc. (Benton) and Arthur F. “Tinker” Green (Green), Benton, Arkansas.

Benton buys livestock in commerce for the purpose of slaughter. Green is president and 100 percent owner, and is responsible for the management, direction, and control of Benton. Both are packers subject to the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act.

GIPSA has evidence that Benton and Green: purchased livestock and failed to pay, when due, the full purchase price of livestock; purchased livestock and failed to pay the full purchase price of livestock; and as of the date of issuance of this complaint owe \$86,654.21 to livestock sellers.

Failure to file an answer to GIPSA’s complaint within the time allowed constitutes an admission of the allegations. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, Benton and Green may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the P&S Act and be assessed a civil penalty.

The P&S Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.



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News Release

Release No.: 09-07

Contact:
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USDA Charges J. Edward Diehl Failed to Pay the Full Purchase Price of Livestock

WASHINGTON, February 8, 2007 - On December 14, 2006, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a complaint against J. Edward Diehl (Diehl), Shippensburg, Pennsylvania.

Diehl is engaged in the business of buying and selling livestock in commerce as a dealer for his own account; engaged in the business of a market agency buying livestock in commerce on a commission basis; and is registered as a dealer to buy and sell livestock in commerce for his own account and as a market agency to buy livestock in commerce on a commission basis.

GIPSA has evidence that Diehl purchased livestock and failed to pay, when due, the full purchase price of livestock.

Failure to file an answer to GIPSA's complaint within the time allowed constitutes an admission of the allegations. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, Diehl may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the P&S Act and/or be assessed a civil penalty.

The P&S Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.



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News Release

Release No.: N/A

Contact:
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USDA Releases Final Livestock and Meat Marketing Report

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16, 2007 - USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) today released the "GIPSA Livestock and Meat Marketing Study," a report by RTI International on the use and impacts of marketing arrangements in the livestock and meat industries.

Overall, the report found that alternative marketing arrangements (AMAs) increase the economic efficiency of the cattle, hog, and lamb markets, and that these economic benefits are distributed to consumers, as well as to producers and packers who use AMAs.

The study, mandated by Congress in 2003, assesses the effects on the market of packer ownership of livestock more than 14 days in advance of slaughter and examines alternative methods to procure and transfer livestock from farm to retail.

GIPSA contracted with RTI International to conduct an extensive study of the economic effects of AMAs on beef, pork, and lamb marketing channels. AMAs are methods by which livestock and meat are transferred through successive stages of production and marketing, and include forward contracting, packer ownership, and marketing agreements. The final report, released today: (1) addresses the extent of AMA's use; (2) analyzes price differences and short-run market price effects of AMAs; (3) measures and compares costs and benefits associated with spot or negotiated marketing arrangements and AMAs; and (4) analyzes the implications of AMAs for the livestock and meat marketing system.

RTI International was awarded the contract as the outcome of a competitive bidding process based on the best value to the government, which included proposed costs to do the study and the technical merits of RTI International's proposal.



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An interim report, released in August 2005, identified and classified AMAs and described their terms, availability, and reasons for use in beef, pork, and lamb market channels, from production to consumption. The most common marketing arrangements for livestock that are made 14 days before slaughter include lot-by-lot contracts or forward contracts, marketing agreements that are contracts for multiple lots, and equity investments by packers in feeding animals referred to as “packer ownership.”

In December 2006, the report was sent to economic academics across the country for peer review purposes. Their comments have been incorporated into the report.

The interim and final reports, including peer reviewers’ comments, and additional information about the study are available on GIPSA’s website (www.gipsa.usda.gov) by following the “Marketing Study” link.

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News Release

Release No.: 17-07

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USDA Suspends Philip O. Mattes, Jr. d/b/a R or M Cattle Company Registration for 5 Years

WASHINGTON, February 22, 2007 - On October 6, 2006, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a decision without hearing by reason of default against Philip O. Mattes, Jr. (Mattes), a livestock dealer doing business as R or M Cattle Company, Thorp, Wisconsin. The decision was not appealed and became final on December 19, 2006. The decision suspends Mattes' registration for five years and requires that he cease and desist from:

- failing to pay the full purchase price of livestock; and
- issuing checks in payment for livestock purchases without maintaining sufficient funds on deposit and available in the account in which the checks were drawn to pay the checks when presented.

The decision results from an investigation that culminated in a complaint filed on June 12, 2006, in which GIPSA alleged Mattes doing business as R or M Cattle:

- issued checks in payment for livestock purchases which were returned unpaid by the bank from which they were drawn; and
- failed to pay the full purchase price of livestock.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.



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News Release

Release No.: 15-07

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USDA Suspends Charles Ronald Powell, d/b/a/ Ronnie Powell Livestock as a Registrant Under the Packers and Stockyards Act

WASHINGTON, February 22, 2007 - On February 7, 2007, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a decision without hearing by reason of consent against Charles Ronald Powell (Powell), doing business as Ronnie Powell Livestock, Smithfield, North Carolina. Powell is engaged in the business of buying and selling livestock in commerce as a dealer for his own account and is registered as a dealer to buy and sell livestock in commerce for his own account. The decision orders Powell to:

- cease and desist from failing to pay, when due, the full purchase price of livestock; and
- suspends him as a registrant under the P&S Act for a period of 30 days.

The decision results from an investigation by GIPSA that culminated in a complaint filed on November 21, 2006, in which GIPSA alleged Powell:

- purchased livestock and failed to pay, when due, the full purchase price of livestock; and
- purchased livestock and failed to pay the full purchase price of livestock.

The P&S Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.



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News Release

Release No.: 19-07

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USDA Orders Andrew Pudliner, d/b/a/ Pudliner Packing to Cease and Desist

WASHINGTON, February 22, 2007 - On December 15, 2006, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a consent decision and order against Andrew Pudliner (Pudliner), a packer doing business as Pudliner Packing, Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

Pudliner was assessed a civil penalty of \$3,250 and was ordered to cease and desist from failing to pay, when due, the full purchase price for livestock.

The decision results from an investigation that culminated in a complaint filed on August 30, 2006, in which GIPSA alleged Pudliner, despite letters of notice, failed to pay for livestock within the time period required by the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act.

The P&S Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.



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News Release

Release No.: 05-07

Contact:
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USDA Charges Wharton Livestock Auction, Inc. and Herman W. (Billy) Schwertner with Unfair and Deceptive Practices

WASHINGTON, February 22, 2007 - On January 26, 2007, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a complaint against Wharton Livestock Auction, Inc. (Wharton) and Herman W. (Billy) Schwertner (Schwertner), Wharton, Texas.

Wharton conducts and operates as a posted stockyard subject to the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act; is engaged in the business of a market agency selling livestock in commerce on a commission basis; a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce for its own account or the account of others; is registered as a market agency to sell livestock in commerce on a commission basis; and as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce. Schwertner is President and 100% owner and is responsible for the management, direction, and control of Wharton.

GIPSA has evidence that Wharton under the direction, management and control of Schwertner:

- misused its Custodial Account for Shippers' Proceeds by issuing checks drawn on its custodial account to make advances/loans to its auctioneer and not for payment to a consignor, shipper, or anyone entitled to payment; and
- had shortages of funds available to pay shippers their net proceeds.

Failure to file an answer to GIPSA's complaint within the time allowed constitutes an admission of the allegations. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, Wharton and Schwertner may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the P&S Act and be assessed a civil penalty.

The P&S Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.

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News Release

Release No.: 13-07

Contact:
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USDA Charges Leroy Keaton and Todd Keaton, d/b/a Keaton Cattle Co. with Violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act

WASHINGTON, February 22, 2007 - On November 21, 2006, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a complaint against Leroy Keaton (L. Keaton) and Todd Keaton (T. Keaton) doing business as Keaton Cattle Company, Sealy, Texas.

L. Keaton and T. Keaton are engaged in the business of buying and selling livestock in commerce as a dealer for their own account and are registered as a dealer to buy and sell livestock in commerce for their own account.

GIPSA has evidence that L. Keaton and T. Keaton:

- purchased livestock and failed to pay, when due, the full purchase price of livestock; and
- failed to keep and maintain records which fully and correctly disclosed all the transactions involved in their business as a livestock dealer.

Failure to file an answer to GIPSA's complaint within the time allowed constitutes an admission of the allegations. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, L. Keaton and T. Keaton may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the Packers and Stockyards Act and be assessed a civil penalty.

The P&S Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.



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News Release

Release No.: 07-07

Contact:
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USDA Charges Kent Frisell with Violating the Packers and Stockyards Act

WASHINGTON, February 22, 2007 - On January 18, 2007, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a complaint against Kent Frisell (Frisell), Holdredge, Nebraska.

Those who engage in the business of a market agency buying livestock on a commission basis in commerce are subject to the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act. Frisell is neither registered or bonded to conduct such activity.

GIPSA has evidence that Frisell engaged in the business of buying and selling livestock in commerce on a commission basis without being registered with the Secretary and without maintaining an adequate bond.

Failure to file an answer to GIPSA's complaint within the time allowed constitutes an admission of the allegations. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, Frisell may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the P&S Act and be assessed a civil penalty.

The P&S Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.



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News Release

Release No.: 08-07

Contact:
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USDA Charges Jim L. Leslie Owes Livestock Sellers \$402,420.84

WASHINGTON, February 22, 2007 - On January 4, 2007, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a complaint against Jim L. Leslie (Leslie), Dacoma, Oklahoma. Leslie is engaged in the business of buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account as a dealer and is registered as a dealer to buy and sell livestock in commerce for his own account.

GIPSA has evidence that Leslie:

- issued non sufficient funds checks;
- purchased livestock and failed to pay, when due, for livestock purchases;
- failed to keep accounts, records, and memoranda which fully and correctly disclosed all the transactions involved in his business as a livestock dealer; and
- owed \$402,420.84 to livestock sellers as of the date this complaint was issued.

Failure to file an answer to GIPSA's complaint within the time allowed constitutes an admission of the allegations. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, Leslie may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the P&S Act and suspended as a registrant.

The P&S Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.



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News Release

Release No.: 10-07

Contact:
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USDA Charges Gainesville Livestock Market, Inc., and Milton Ward Misused Its Custodial Account

WASHINGTON, February 22, 2007 - On January 30, 2007, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a complaint against Gainesville Livestock Market, Inc. (Gainesville) and Milton Ward (Ward), Gainesville, Texas.

Gainesville is a posted stockyard subject to the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act; engaged in the business of a market agency selling livestock on a commission basis; and is registered as a market agency to sell livestock on a commission basis. Ward is President and 100% owner and is responsible for the direction, management and control of Gainesville.

GIPSA has evidence that Gainesville under the direction, management and control of Ward:

- failed to maintain and use properly its Custodial Account for Shippers' Proceeds endangering payments due consignors of livestock;
- failed to keep adequate records;
- failed to timely deposit in its custodial account amounts equal to the proceeds receivable from the sale of consigned livestock; and
- had custodial account shortages of \$160,695.23 on October 30, 2005, \$246,937.06 on April 30, 2006, and \$162,034.11 on August 4, 2006.

Failure to file an answer to GIPSA's complaint within the time allowed constitutes an admission of the allegations. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, Gainesville and Ward may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the P&S Act and assessed a civil penalty.

The P&S Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.



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News Release

Release No.: 14-07

Contact:
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USDA Charges Edward M. Baker, d/b/a Baker & Baker Livestock with Violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act

WASHINGTON, February 22, 2007 - On November 21, 2006, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a complaint against Edward M. Baker (Baker), doing business as Baker & Baker Livestock, Sabillasville, Maryland.

Baker is engaged in the business of buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account or the account of others; buying livestock in commerce on a commission basis and is registered as a dealer to buy and sell livestock in commerce and as a market agency to buy livestock in commerce on a commission basis.

GIPSA has evidence that Baker:

- issued non sufficient funds checks;
- purchased livestock and failed to pay, when due, the full purchase price of livestock;
- owed \$149,772 as of the date of this complaint; and
- failed to keep records that fully and correctly disclosed all transactions involved in his business.

Failure to file an answer to GIPSA's complaint within the time allowed constitutes an admission of the allegations. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, Baker may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act and be assessed a civil penalty.

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News Release

Release No.: 04-07

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USDA Charges Douglas Clemens (Clemens) doing business as Monticello Livestock Sales with Violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act

WASHINGTON, February 22, 2007 - On January 26, 2007, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a complaint against Douglas Clemens (Clemens) doing business as Monticello Livestock Sales, Bernard, Iowa.

Clemens was engaged in the business of a market agency selling livestock in commerce on a commission basis; a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account and the account of others; and was registered as a market agency to sell livestock in commerce on a commission basis.

GIPSA has evidence that Clemens:

- issued checks that were returned unpaid by the bank upon which they were drawn because Clemens ordered the bank to stop payment of checks;
- purchased livestock and failed to pay, when due, the full purchase price of livestock;
- misused his Custodial Account for Shippers' Proceeds;
- failed to keep records that correctly disclosed all transactions in the business;
- did not maintain an adequate bond; and
- owed \$320,017.80 to livestock sellers as of the date of issuance of this complaint.

Failure to file an answer to GIPSA's complaint within the time allowed constitutes an admission of the allegations. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, Clemens may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act and be assessed a civil penalty.

The P&S Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.



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News Release

Release No.: 12-07

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USDA Charges Dane Fine/ d/b/a/ Dane Fine Meat Packing with Violating the Packers and Stockyards Act

WASHINGTON, February 22, 2007 - On December 14, 2006, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a complaint and notice of hearing against Dane Fine (Fine), doing business as Dane Fine Meat Packing, Saxonburg, Pennsylvania.

Fine is engaged in the business of buying livestock in commerce for purposes of slaughter and a packer subject to the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act.

GIPSA has evidence that Fine purchased livestock and failed to pay, when due, the full purchase price for livestock.

Failure to file an answer to GIPSA's complaint within the time allowed constitutes an admission of the allegations. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, Fine may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the P&S Act and be assessed a civil penalty.

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News Release

Release No.: 06-07

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USDA Charges Central Livestock Corporation and Russell M. Frederick, d/b/a/ Atlas Cattle Company with Failure to Pay for Livestock Purchases Totaling \$44,328.70

WASHINGTON, February 22, 2007 - On January 18, 2007, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a complaint against Central Livestock Corporation (Central), South Hutchinson, Kansas, and Russell M. Frederick (Frederick), Sterling, Kansas, doing business as Atlas Cattle Company.

Central conducts and operates a posted stockyard subject to the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act; is engaged in the business of a market agency selling livestock on a commission basis and is registered as a market agency to sell livestock on a commission basis.

Frederick is President and 90% owner of Central and is responsible for the management, direction, and control of Central. Also, Frederick is engaged in the business of a dealer, buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account; and is registered as an individual doing business as Atlas Cattle Company as a dealer to buy and sell livestock in commerce.

GIPSA has evidence that Central under the direction, management and control of Frederick:

- failed to properly maintain its Custodial Account for Shippers' Proceeds;
- failed to deposit in its custodial account, within the time prescribed, an amount equal to the proceeds receivable from the sale of consigned livestock, whether or not such proceeds had been collected by the market agency;
- had custodial account shortages on several dates;
- misused its custodial account by transferring a total of \$230,500 in funds from Central's custodial account to an account in the name of "Mac Frederick or Clyda J. Frederick";
- issued insufficient funds check to consignors of livestock;
- failed to remit, when due, the proceeds to consignors of livestock; and
- as of the date of the issuance of the complaint, owed \$45,672.82 to livestock consignors.

GIPSA also has evidence that Frederick, doing business as Atlas Cattle Company:



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- issued insufficient funds checks and failed to pay, when due, for livestock purchases; and
- owed \$44,328.70 as of the date of issuance of the complaint.

Failure to file an answer to GIPSA's complaint within the time allowed constitutes an admission of the allegations. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing,

Central and Frederick may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the P&S Act and be assessed a civil penalty.

Central held its last sale on February 7, 2006. The market is currently operating under new ownership and is not affected by this action.

The P&S Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.



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Release No.: 16-07

Contact:
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USDA Charges Bobby T. Tindel with Failure to Pay When Due

WASHINGTON, February 22, 2007 - On November 21, 2006, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a complaint against Bobby T. Tindel (Tindel), Chandler, Texas.

Tindel is engaged in the business of buying and selling livestock in commerce as a dealer for his own account and is registered as a dealer to buy and sell livestock in commerce for his own account.

GIPSA has evidence that Tindel purchased livestock and failed to pay, when due, the full purchase price of livestock.

Failure to file an answer to GIPSA's complaint within the time allowed constitutes an admission of the allegations. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, Tindel may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act and be assessed a civil penalty.

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News Release

Release No.: 21-07

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USDA Assesses Muenster Livestock Auction Commission, Inc. and Scotty Austin a Civil Penalty of \$24,000

WASHINGTON, February 22, 2007 - On December 12, 2006, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a decision against Muenster Livestock Auction Commission, Inc. (Muenster) and Scotty Austin (Austin), a market agency selling livestock in commerce in Muenster, Texas. The decision orders Muenster and Austin to cease and desist from:

- failing to deposit in the Custodial Account for Shippers' Proceeds amounts equal to the outstanding proceeds receivable from the sale of consigned livestock;
- failing to maintain the Custodial Account for Shippers' proceeds in strict conformity with the regulations;
- failing to reimburse the Custodial Account for Shippers' Proceeds by the close of the next business day for purchases made by Austin;
- using funds received from the sale of consigned livestock for purposes of their own, or for any purpose other than payment to consignors of the amount due from the sale of their livestock and the payment of lawful marketing charges;
- creating false dock-in records, sales invoices, and accounting for phantom livestock;
- issuing custodial account checks, and misusing custodial funds, in a fictitious sale of consigned livestock and issuing custodial account checks payable to fictitious names, rather than to the true name of the livestock owner and consignor.

Muenster and Austin are suspended for a period of 7 days and assessed a civil penalty of \$24,000. They are also ordered to keep and maintain such accounts, records, and memoranda as fully and correctly disclose their transactions subject to the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act and the regulations, including but not limited to true and correct dock-in records and sales invoices; and custodial account checks that name as payee the true owners and consignors of consigned livestock.

The decision results from an investigation that culminated in a complaint filed on February 22, 2006, in which GIPSA alleged that Muenster, under the direction, management, and



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control of Austin:

- failed to maintain and use properly its custodial accounts for shippers' proceeds endangering the faithful and prompt accounting and the payment of portions due the owners and consignors of livestock;
- failed to deposit in custodial accounts for shippers' proceeds within the time prescribed by the regulations an amount equal to the proceeds receivable from the sale of consigned livestock;
- failed to keep and maintain records that fully and correctly disclosed all transactions in the business subject to the P&S Act; and
- willfully prepared and maintained false records to disguise the custodial account misuse.

The P&S Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.



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News Release

Release No.: 20-07

Contact:
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USDA Assesses American Family Farms, Inc. a Civil Penalty of \$50,000

WASHINGTON, February 22, 2007 - On October 31, 2006, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a decision and order against American Family Farms, Inc. (AFF), headquartered in Elkader, Iowa, by reason of default. AFF was a packing company located in South Dakota. The decision assesses AFF a \$50,000 civil penalty and orders AFF to cease and desist from:

- failing to timely pay the full amount of the purchase price for livestock; and
- purchasing livestock in commerce while insolvent, while current liabilities exceed current assets, unless AFF pays the full purchase price of livestock at the time of purchase in U.S. currency, by cashier's check or wire transfer.

The decision results from an investigation that culminated in a complaint filed on March 8, 2006, in which GIPSA alleged AFF failed to pay the full amount of the purchase price as required by the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act. GIPSA also alleged that AFF's current liabilities exceeded its current assets by \$1,141,203.36 as of August 15, 2003.

The P&S Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.



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News Release

Release No.: 18-07

Contact:
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USDA Orders Nicholas Meat Packing and Eugene A. Nicholas to Cease and Desist

WASHINGTON, February 23, 2007 - On December 29, 2006, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a decision and order by reason of admissions against Nicholas Meat Packing and Eugene A. Nicholas (Nicholas), a slaughtering packer in Loganton, Pennsylvania. The decision requires that Nicholas Meat Packing and Nicholas:

- cease and desist from failing to pay the full purchase price for livestock within the time required by the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act; and
- assesses a civil penalty of \$5,000.

The decision results from an investigation that culminated in a complaint filed on April 27, 2006, in which GIPSA alleged that Nicholas Meat Packing under the direction, management, and control of Nicholas purchased livestock and failed to pay, when due, the full purchase price of the livestock.

The P&S Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.



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News Release

Release No.: 11-07

Contact:
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USDA Orders Atlantic Veal and Lamb Inc., Philip Peerless and Martin Weiner to Cease and Desist

WASHINGTON, February 23, 2007 - On February 7, 2007, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a decision without hearing by reason of consent against Atlantic Veal and Lamb (Atlantic), Philip Peerless (Peerless) and Martin Weiner (Weiner), Brooklyn, New York. All are packers subject to the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act. The decision orders Atlantic, Peerless, and Weiner to:

- cease and desist from failing to pay the full amount of the purchase price for livestock when due; and
- assesses a civil penalty in the amount of \$12,500.

The decision results from an investigation by GIPSA followed by a complaint filed on November 21, 2006, in which GIPSA alleged Atlantic, Peerless, and Weiner purchased livestock on a carcass merit basis for slaughter and failed to pay, when due, the full amount of the purchase price for livestock.

The P&S Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.



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News Release

Release No.: 23-07

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USDA Assesses Wharton Livestock Auction, Inc., and Herman W. (Billy) Schwertner a Civil Penalty of \$22,500

WASHINGTON, March 23, 2007 - On February 28, 2007, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a decision without hearing by reason of consent against Wharton Livestock Auction, Inc. (Wharton) and Herman W. (Billy) Schwertner (Schwertner), Wharton, Texas. The decision assesses Wharton and Schwertner a \$22,500 civil penalty and orders Wharton and Schwertner to cease and desist from:

Using funds received as proceeds due from the sale of livestock sold on a commission basis for purposes of his own or for any purpose other than the payment of lawful marketing charges and the remittance of net proceeds to the consignors of livestock; and failing to otherwise maintain his Custodial Account for Shippers Proceeds.

The decision results from an investigation that culminated in a complaint filed January 26, 2007, in which GIPSA alleged that Wharton and Schwertner in October and November of 2002:

- misused its Custodial Account for Shippers Proceeds by issuing checks drawn on its custodial account to make advances/loans to its auctioneer and not for payment to a consignor, shipper, or anyone entitled to payment; and
- had shortages of funds available to pay shippers their net proceeds.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.



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News Release

Release No.: 27-07

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USD Suspends Edward M. Baker, d/b/a/ Baker & Baker Livestock for a Period of Five Years

WASHINGTON, April 25, 2007 - On March 16, 2006, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) entered into a consent decision with Edward M. Baker (Baker), doing business as Baker & Baker Livestock, Sabillasville, Maryland. Baker has been ordered to cease and desist from:

- issuing checks in payment for livestock purchases without having sufficient funds to cover checks;
- failing to pay sellers for the sale of their livestock within the time period required by the regulations; and
- failing to pay the full amount of livestock.

Also, Baker is suspended as a registrant under the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act for 5 years and ordered to keep records that fully disclose all transactions involved in his business.

The decision resolves charges that were filed November 21, 2006, in which GIPSA alleged that Baker: issued checks without having sufficient funds to cover checks;

- purchased livestock and failed to pay sellers for the sale of their livestock within the time period required by the regulations;
- owed \$149,772 as of the date of this complaint; and
- failed to keep records that fully disclosed all transactions involved in his business.

The P&S Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.

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News Release

Release No.: 26-07

Contact:
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USDA Suspends Central Livestock Corporation and Russell M. Frederick, d/b/a Atlas Cattle Company for a Period of Five Years

WASHINGTON, April 25, 2007 - On March 15, 2007, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) entered into a decision without hearing by reason of consent with Central Livestock Corporation (Central), South Hutchinson, Kansas, and Russell M. Frederick (Frederick), Sterling, Kansas, doing business as Atlas Cattle Company and ordered them to cease and desist from:

- Endangering payment to livestock sellers by not reimbursing the account used for seller payment in a timely fashion;
- using custodial account for purposes other than those allowed by the regulations;
- failing to pay the full amount owed to livestock sellers;
- issuing checks in payment for livestock purchases without having sufficient funds to cover checks; and
- failing to pay sellers for the sale of their livestock within the time period required by the regulations.

Central and Frederick doing business as Atlas Cattle Company were suspended as registrants for a period of 5 years under the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act.

The decision resolves charges that were filed on January 18, 2007, in which GIPSA alleged that Central and Frederick:

- endangered payment to livestock sellers by not reimbursing the account used for seller payment in a timely fashion;
- failed to deposit in their custodial account beyond the time allowed by the regulations;
- had custodial account shortages which endangered payment to livestock sellers;
- used their custodial account for purposes other than those allowed by the regulations;
- issued checks without having sufficient funds to cover checks;
- failed to pay sellers of livestock in a timely fashion; and



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- as of the date of this complaint, \$45,672.82 was owed to livestock sellers.

Also, Frederick, doing business as Atlas Cattle Company:

- issued checks without having sufficient funds to cover checks;
- failed to pay sellers for the sale of their livestock within the time period required by the regulations; and
- owed \$44,328.70 as of the date of issuance of the complaint.

Central held its last sale on February 7, 2006. The market is currently operating under new ownership and is not affected by this action.

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News Release

Release No.: 25-07

Contact:
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USDA Orders Garry E. Richerson to Cease and Desist

WASHINGTON, April 25, 2007 - On February 13, 2007, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) entered into a consent decision with Garry E. Richerson (Richerson) Lebanon, Kentucky, ordering him to cease and desist from:

- endangering payment to livestock sellers by not reimbursing the account used for seller payment in a timely fashion;
- failing to pay sellers for the sale of their livestock within the time period required by the regulations; and
- issuing checks without having sufficient funds to cover checks.

Charges were dismissed against Choate's Stockyard, Inc. (Choate), Sonora, Kentucky, as a result of the dissolution of the corporation which was filed on January 5, 2004.

The decision resolves charges that were filed February 11, 2007, in which GIPSA alleged that Choate and Richerson in March of 2002:

- had shortages in their custodial account (used for the purpose of paying sellers of livestock) which were caused by failure to make timely deposits to the account, and
- failed to remit the full amount due from the sale price of livestock within the time period required by the regulations.

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News Release

Release No.: 29-07

Contact:
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GIPSA Implements New Rules for Resolving Violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act

WASHINGTON, April 25, 2007 - USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) today published in the Federal Register changes to the rules of practice governing proceedings under the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act. The changes will allow GIPSA and persons alleged to have violated the P&S Act to settle cases in a more timely and less costly manner than previous procedures. It also provides GIPSA with another enforcement tool to obtain compliance in lieu of letters and warnings.

Under the new rules, GIPSA has the option to offer persons believed to be operating in violation of the P&S Act a stipulation agreement. The stipulation agreement gives notice that certain conduct discovered by GIPSA violates the P&S Act and allows the alleged violator an opportunity to voluntarily pay a specified penalty to resolve the case.

"This change brings GIPSA more in line with other USDA agencies that already have the ability to settle violation cases by stipulation agreement," said Bruce Knight, Under Secretary for USDA Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP), which includes GIPSA. "GIPSA can respond quickly to bring violators into compliance and, in doing so, offer better protection to America's farmers and ranchers." Stipulation procedures are available for use by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of USDA, another of the MRP agencies under Knight's oversight. APHIS has authority to use stipulation agreements in settling cases involving the Animal Welfare Act, Plant Protection Act, and Animal Health Protection Act as well as other federal laws.

The P&S Act provides for civil penalties of up to \$11,000 for each violation a person commits. By agreeing to settle cases by stipulation, alleged violators will have the opportunity to pay a civil penalty less than would be imposed if GIPSA were to file a formal administrative complaint. The lower penalty amount does not mean that GIPSA will be letting violators off easy, however. "For most people, a stipulation agreement will be offered just once," says GIPSA Administrator Jim Link, "if violations continue after we've reached an agreement, then GIPSA will file a complaint and seek more severe sanctions." As an additional deterrent,



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some violators who in the past would have received written warnings will now be faced with civil penalties.

“This change is good for everyone,” says Link, “the industry we regulate benefits by having violators pay and come into compliance soon after a violation is discovered, and the violators are able to resolve their case quickly so it’s not out there hanging over their heads for a long time.” Taxpayers will also benefit as the cost for USDA to reach resolution in many cases will be greatly reduced.

The change in the rules of practice takes effect immediately. Like civil penalties collected in cases where GIPSA files a formal complaint, stipulation payments are paid to the United States Treasury. If a person alleged to have violated the P&S Act chooses not to agree and pay the stipulation penalty, GIPSA will proceed with the filing of an administrative complaint and seek a higher penalty.

The P&S Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.



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News Release

Release No.: 33-07

Contact:
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USDA Charges Randall Bond with Violating the Packers and Stockyards Act

WASHINGTON, May 7, 2007 - On March 30, 2007, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a complaint against Randall Bond (Bond), Sweetwater, Texas. Bond is a dealer and market agency buying livestock in commerce on a commission basis. He is not registered as a dealer or market agency with the Secretary of Agriculture.

GIPSA has evidence that Bond purchased livestock from four posted stockyards in Texas without being registered with the Secretary of Agriculture and did not have a bond.

Failure to file an answer to GIPSA's complaint within the time allowed would be considered an admission of the allegations. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, Bond may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act.

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News Release

Release No.: 31-07

Contact:
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USDA Charges Cargill Meat Solutions Corporation with Violating the Packers and Stockyards Act

WASHINGTON, May 7, 2007 - On March 29, 2007, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a complaint and notice of hearing against Cargill Meat Solutions Corporation (Cargill), Wichita, Kansas. Cargill buys livestock in commerce for the purpose of slaughter and is a packer.

GIPSA has evidence that Cargill did not maintain and operate an accurate scale to determine livestock carcass weights at its slaughter facility in Schuyler, Nebraska.

Failure to file an answer to GIPSA's complaint within the time allowed would be considered an admission of the allegations. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, Cargill may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act.

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News Release

Release No.: 38-07

Contact:
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USDA Suspends London Auction Barn, Inc.

WASHINGTON, June 5, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) entered into a default decision and order with London Auction Barn, Inc. (London), London, Arkansas, on February 1, 2007. London violated the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act by operating as a market agency selling livestock in commerce on a commission basis without a bond. London has been ordered to cease and desist from engaging in business for which a bond is required.

London is also suspended as a registrant under the P&S Act until it is in full compliance with P&S bonding requirements and is assessed a civil penalty in the amount of \$1,000.

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News Release

Release No.: 32-07

Contact:
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USDA Assesses Leroy Keaton and Todd Keaton, D/B/A Keaton Cattle Co. a Civil Penalty

WASHINGTON, June 5, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) entered into a consent decision with Leroy Keaton (L. Keaton) and Todd Keaton (T. Keaton) doing business as Keaton Cattle Company, Sealy, Texas, on April 5, 2007. L. Keaton and T. Keaton have been ordered to cease and desist from:

- Failing to pay when due the full amount owed to livestock sellers; and
- Failing to keep records involved in their business as livestock dealers.
-

They are also ordered to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$7,000.

The consent decision resolves charges that were filed November 21, 2006, in which GIPSA alleged that L. Keaton and T. Keaton:

- Failed to pay when due the full amount owed to livestock sellers; and
- Failed to keep records involved in their business as livestock dealers.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.



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News Release

Release No.: 35-07

Contact:
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GIPSA Charges Southwest Livestock Exchange, Inc. with Violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act

WASHINGTON, June 5, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has found evidence that Southwest Livestock Exchange, Inc. (Southwest), Uvalde, Texas, endangered payment to livestock sellers by not reimbursing the account used for seller payment in a timely fashion, which is a violation of the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act. Also, a second violation of the P&S Act was found, Southwest did not keep required purchase and sales records.

On March 29, 2007, GIPSA filed a complaint against Southwest. Southwest had 20 days to respond in accordance with the P&S Act and to date, has not done so. Failure to file an answer to GIPSA's complaint within the time allowed is considered an admission of the allegations. Southwest potentially faces a cease and desist order for violating the P&S Act, a suspension and/or assessment of a civil penalty.

Southwest currently operates as a posted stockyard and is registered as a market agency selling and buying livestock in commerce on a commission basis. Southwest is also registered as a dealer to buy and sell livestock in commerce.

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News Release

Release No.: 45-07

Contact:
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USDA Orders J. Edward Diehl to Cease and Desist

WASHINGTON, June 7, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) entered into a decision without hearing by reason of consent with J. Edward Diehl (Diehl), Shippensburg, Pennsylvania.

Diehl has been ordered to cease and desist from failing to pay, when due, the full amount owed to livestock sellers. He was also assessed a civil penalty of \$1,500.

The decision without hearing by reason of consent resolves charges that were filed December 14, 2006, in which GIPSA alleged that Diehl failed to pay, when due, the full amount owed to livestock sellers.

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News Release

Release No.: 47-07

Contact:
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GIPSA Charges Ty Wayne McMurtry with Violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act

WASHINGTON, June 7, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has found evidence that Ty Wayne McMurtry (McMurtry), Amarillo, Texas, issued checks without having sufficient funds to cover checks; failed to pay sellers for the sale of their livestock within the time period required by the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act; failed to re-weigh cattle; increased the invoice weights of livestock shipped to his customers; and operated without a bond as required by the P&S Act and regulations.

On April 27, 2007, GIPSA filed a complaint against McMurtry. McMurtry had 20 days to respond in accordance with the P&S Act and to date, has not done so. Failure to file an answer to GIPSA's complaint within the time allowed is considered an admission of the allegations. McMurtry potentially faces a cease and desist order for violating the P&S Act, a suspension and/or assessment of a civil penalty.

McMurtry currently operates as a dealer and is registered as a dealer selling and buying livestock in commerce on a commission basis. The P&S Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock meat, and poultry industries.



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News Release

Release No.: 49-07

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GIPSA Charges James Gary Tankersley, d/b/a Express Meats with Violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act

WASHINGTON, June 7, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has found evidence that James Gary Tankersley (Tankersley), doing business as Express Meats, Gainesville, Georgia, issued checks without having sufficient funds to cover checks; failed to pay sellers for the sale of their livestock within the time period required by the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act; and failed to keep records that fully disclosed all transactions involved in his business.

On April 27, 2007, GIPSA filed a complaint and notice of hearing against Tankersley. Tankersley had 20 days to respond in accordance with the P&S Act and to date, has not done so. Failure to file an answer to GIPSA's complaint within the time allowed is considered an admission of the allegations. Tankersley potentially faces a cease and desist order for violating the P&S Act and assessment of a civil penalty.

Tankersley currently operates as a packer and is in the business of buying livestock in commerce for slaughter.

The P&S Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock meat, and poultry industries.



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News Release

Release No.: 50-07

Contact:
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GIPSA Charges Berry & Sons, Rababeh Islamic Slaughterhouse, Inc. with Operating without a Bond

WASHINGTON, June 7, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has found evidence that Berry & Sons, Rababeh Islamic Slaughterhouse, Inc. (Berry), Detroit, Michigan, is purchasing livestock for slaughter without maintaining a bond as required by the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act.

On April 27, 2007, GIPSA filed a complaint and notice of hearing against Berry. Berry had 20 days to respond in accordance with the P&S Act and to date, has not done so. Failure to file an answer to GIPSA's complaint within the time allowed is considered an admission of the allegations. Berry potentially faces a cease and desist order for violating the P&S Act and assessment of a civil penalty.

Berry currently operates as a packer and is in the business of buying livestock in commerce for slaughter.

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News Release

Release No.: 51-07

Contact:
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GIPSA Charges Lynn Bint, d/b/a KO Cattle Co. with Violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act

WASHINGTON, June 20, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has found evidence that Lynn Bint (Bint), doing business as KO Cattle Co., Merkel, Texas, failed to pay sellers for his livestock purchases within the time period required by the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act and failed to keep records that fully disclosed all transactions involved in his business.

On June 1, 2007, GIPSA filed a complaint against Bint. Bint has 20 days to respond in accordance with the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act. Failure to file an answer to GIPSA's complaint within the time allowed is considered an admission of the allegations. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, Bint may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the P&S Act, suspended and assessed a civil penalty.

Bint currently buys and sells livestock in commerce as a dealer for his own account and a market agency buying livestock in commerce on a commission basis.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.



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News Release

Release No.: 01-07

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Meadowbrook Farms Cooperative Charged with Restraining Commerce

WASHINGTON, June 22, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has filed a complaint against Meadowbrook Farms Cooperative (Meadowbrook), Belleville, Ill. GIPSA has found evidence that Meadowbrook engaged in conduct that violated the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act.

In February 2007, Meadowbrook sent letters to other meatpacking companies, incorrectly warning those companies that Meadowbrook's producer-members were under a temporary restraining order prohibiting them from selling pigs to anyone other than Meadowbrook. While its producer-members were under a temporary restraining order at that time, the order only required producers to comply with their agreement to meet their hog-supply commitment to Meadowbrook. GIPSA alleges that Meadowbrook, by sending letters to other meatpacking companies, inhibited the ability of the named producer-members to sell hogs that were not committed to Meadowbrook. This conduct, according to GIPSA, is a deceptive practice and restraint of commerce in violation of the P&S Act.

According to USDA rules, Meadowbrook has 20 days after service of the complaint (June 8, 2007) to respond in accordance with the P&S Act. If Meadowbrook fails to answer, the allegations are considered admitted. Meadowbrook may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the P&S Act and assessed a civil penalty if the allegations are admitted or proven in an oral hearing.

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News Release

Release No.: 53-07

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GIPSA Assesses United Producers, Inc. a Civil Penalty of \$96,000

WASHINGTON, June 29, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) entered into a consent decision with United Producers, Inc. (UPI), Columbus, Ohio on June 1, 2007. UPI has been ordered to cease and desist from creating false or misleading records and was assessed a civil penalty of \$96,000.

The consent decision resolves charges that were filed on March 12, 2007, in which GIPSA alleged that UPI:

- Created false or misleading records for the purpose of providing short-term financing to another company, United Livestock Services LLC, which was in the business of purchasing, managing and selling cattle for investors;
- Documented fictitious cattle purchases and sales; and
- Engaged in deceptive business practices in which purchasers of cattle were unable to locate the animals.

UPI is a cooperative registered with the State of Ohio; buys and sells livestock in commerce on a commission basis; and is registered as a dealer and as a market agency.

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News Release

Release No.: 57-07

Contact:
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GIPSA's New Enforcement Rule Results in Quicker Resolution of Violation Cases

WASHINGTON, July 5, 2007 -The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's (GIPSA) new enforcement rules provides a mechanism to quickly resolve violations of the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act. On April 25, 2007, GIPSA amended the rules of practice governing proceedings under the P&S Act. GIPSA may offer an alleged violator the option of waiving their right to a hearing and entering into a stipulation agreement to quickly resolve alleged violations.

"We take violations of the P&S Act seriously and this is another enforcement tool that we are using to quickly resolve violations and improve compliance to protect livestock producers and sellers," said GIPSA Administrator James Link. "Not every case results in a stipulation offer to the alleged violator. If producers have suffered harm, we are going to file a formal complaint and seek more severe penalties in a formal administrative action."

GIPSA recently settled its first three cases using the new rules resulting in nearly \$10,000 in civil penalties.

RY Livestock Sales, Inc. of Rio Grande City, Texas, and Muskogee Stockyards and Livestock Auction, Inc., of Muskogee, Oklahoma, paid penalties of \$3,500 and \$5,500 respectively after GIPSA found shortages in their custodial accounts.

Lido Veal and Lamb, Inc., of Los Angeles, California, paid a penalty of \$750 after GIPSA found instances where Lido did not pay for its livestock purchases within the time period required under the P&S Act.

The new rules are for first time offenders. Those who fail to comply with the P&S Act a second time may be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$11,000 per violation. GIPSA also has authority to suspend livestock dealers and market agencies from operating.



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Like civil penalties collected in cases where GIPSA files a formal complaint, stipulation payments are paid to the United States Treasury. If a person alleged to have violated the P&S Act does not agree to the stipulation offer, GIPSA proceeds with the filing of an administrative complaint and may seek a higher penalty.

The P&S Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.



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News Release

Release No.: 58-07

Contact:
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Bobby T. Tindel is Ordered to Cease and Desist

WASHINGTON, July 5, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) entered into a decision without hearing by reason of default with Bobby T. Tindel (Tindel), Chandler, Texas.

Tindel has been ordered to cease and desist from failing to pay the full amount of the purchase price for livestock within the time period required by the Packers and Stockyards Act. Also, Tindel has been assessed a civil penalty in the amount of \$1,500.

The decision without hearing by reason of default resolves charges that were filed on November 21, 2006, in which GIPSA alleged that Tindel purchased livestock and failed to pay when due the amount owed to livestock sellers.

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News Release

Release No.: 67-07

Contact:
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USDA Orders Randall Bond to Cease and Desist

WASHINGTON, July 17, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) entered into a decision without hearing by reason of consent with Randall Bond (Bond), Sweetwater, Texas, on June 27, 2007. Bond has been ordered to cease and desist from engaging in business for which a bond is required without maintaining an adequate bond. Bond was also assessed a civil penalty in the amount of \$2,750.

The consent decision resolves charges that were filed March 30, 2007, in which GIPSA alleged that Bond purchased livestock from four posted stockyards in Texas without being registered with the Secretary of Agriculture, without having a bond.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.



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News Release

Release No.: 60-07

Contact:
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Madison Livestock Sales, LLC is Assessed a Civil Penalty

WASHINGTON, July 17, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) entered into a decision without hearing by reason of consent with Madison Livestock Sales, LLC (Madison), Richmond, Kentucky. Madison has been ordered to cease and desist from:

- Engaging in business subject to the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act while its current liabilities exceed its current assets;
- Failing to properly maintain a custodial account for shippers' proceeds which caused shortages in its account endangering payment to livestock sellers;
- Failing to deposit in its custodial account, in a timely fashion, an amount equal to the proceeds receivable from the sale of consigned livestock; and
- Misusing custodial funds while shortages existed by transferring funds from its custodial account to its general account.

Madison has been assessed a civil penalty in the amount of \$14,400.

The consent decision resolves charges that were filed on August 28, 2006, in which GIPSA alleged that Madison failed to properly maintain its custodial account for shippers' proceeds which caused shortages in its account endangering payment to livestock sellers.

The P&S Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.



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News Release

Release No.: 63-07

Contact:
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Gary Goldberger is Assessed a Civil Penalty of \$15,000

WASHINGTON, July 17, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) entered into a decision and order with respect to respondent Gary Goldberger (Goldberger), Eagan, Minn., on June 19, 2007. Goldberger was ordered to cease and desist from:

- Failing to pay the full amount for livestock purchases; and
- Issuing checks in payment for livestock purchases without having sufficient funds on deposit to cover the checks.

Goldberger can not register to conduct business as a dealer or market agency for two and a half years. He can not operate as a dealer or market agency without being registered. Goldberger was assessed a civil penalty of \$15,000.

The decision and order resolves charges that were filed on April 19, 2006, in which GIPSA alleged that GFI America, Inc. under the direction, management, and control of Goldberger purchased livestock; failed to pay for the livestock; and issued checks in payment for livestock purchases totaling \$3,027,316.24 without having sufficient funds on deposit to cover the checks.

The P&S Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.



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News Release

Release No.: 61-07

Contact:
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GIPSA Charges Lonnie Martin with Violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act

WASHINGTON, July 17, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has found evidence that Lonnie Martin (Martin), East Earl, Pa., failed to pay sellers for his livestock purchases within the time period required by the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act.

On June 13, 2007, GIPSA filed a complaint against Martin. Martin has 20 days to respond in accordance with the P&S Act. Failure to file an answer to GIPSA's complaint within the time allowed is considered an admission of the allegations. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, Martin may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the P&S Act, suspended and assessed a civil penalty.

Martin bought and sold livestock in commerce as a dealer and is registered as a dealer to buy and sell livestock for his own account.

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News Release

Release No.: 62-07

Contact:
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GIPSA Charges Lee Johnson with Violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act

WASHINGTON, July 17, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has found evidence that Lee Johnson (Johnson), Montalba, Texas, failed to pay sellers for his livestock purchases within the time period required by the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act.

On June 13, 2007, GIPSA filed a complaint against Johnson. Johnson has 20 days to respond in accordance with the P&S Act. Failure to file an answer to GIPSA's complaint within the time allowed is considered an admission of the allegations. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, Johnson may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the P&S Act, suspended and assessed a civil penalty.

Johnson currently buys and sells livestock in commerce as a dealer and is registered as a dealer to buy and sell livestock for his own account.

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News Release

Release No.: 66-07

Contact:
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GIPSA Charges Forester's 4-F Cattle Co., Inc. with Violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act

WASHINGTON, July 17, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has found evidence that Forester's 4-F Cattle Co., Inc. (Forester's), LaRue, Texas:

- Sold livestock on the basis of false and incorrect weights;
- Falsified scale tickets to support sales in which customers were billed for fraudulently increased weights; and
- Failed to pay sellers for livestock purchases within the time period required by the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act.

On June 25, 2007, GIPSA filed a complaint against Forester's. Forester's has 20 days to respond in accordance with the P&S Act. Failure to file an answer to GIPSA's complaint within the time allowed is considered an admission of the allegations. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, Forester's may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the P&S Act, suspended and assessed a civil penalty.

Forester's is currently registered as a dealer, buying and selling livestock in commerce for its own account.

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News Release

Release No.: 68-07

Contact:
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GIPSA Charges Douglas Todd Mayfield, d/b/a Hominy Livestock with Violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act

WASHINGTON, July 17, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has found evidence that Douglas Todd Mayfield (Mayfield), doing business as Hominy Livestock Market, Hominy, Oklahoma:

- Failed to deposit in its account an amount equal to the proceeds received from the sale of consigned livestock;
- Failed to properly maintain its custodial account for shippers proceeds which caused shortages in its account endangering payment to livestock sellers;
- Failed to pay the full amount owed to livestock sellers;
- Issued checks without having sufficient funds to cover checks; and
- Misused custodial funds for unauthorized purposes.

On June 29, 2007, GIPSA filed a complaint against Mayfield. Mayfield has 20 days to respond in accordance with the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act. Failure to file an answer to GIPSA's complaint within the time allowed is considered an admission of the allegations. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, Mayfield may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the P&S Act, suspended, and assessed a civil penalty.

Mayfield is registered as a market agency selling livestock in commerce on a commission basis.

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News Release

Release No.: 65-07

Contact:
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GIPSA Charges Billy Mike Gentry with Violating the Packers and Stockyards Act

WASHINGTON, July 17, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has found evidence that Billy Mike Gentry (Gentry), Houston, Mississippi, failed to maintain an adequate bond in spite of decisions and notices rendered from USDA. Gentry used the trade name B&M Farms in his business without submitting an amended application for registration and a trust fund agreement rider covering this trade name. Gentry also failed to accurately report all of his livestock volume in his 2006 Annual Report.

On June 25, 2007, GIPSA filed a complaint against Gentry. Gentry has 20 days to respond in accordance with the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act. Failure to file an answer to GIPSA's complaint within the time allowed is considered an admission of the allegations. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, Gentry may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the P&S Act, suspended and assessed a civil penalty.

Gentry is currently registered as a dealer, buying and selling livestock for his own account, and as a market agency buying livestock on commission under the name Mike Gentry. Gentry is not registered to conduct business under any trade name.

The P&S Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock meat, and poultry industries.



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News Release

Release No.: 59-07

Contact:
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PM Beef Holdings, LLC to Pay \$24,000 Fine

WASHINGTON, July 18, 2007 - On July 10, 2007, USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) and PM Beef Holdings, LLC (PM Beef), Richmond, Virginia, agreed to a consent decision settling charges stemming from a complaint issued on October 23, 2006. In the complaint, GIPSA alleged PM Beef, a packer operating subject to the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act, among other violations, was insolvent during the period December 31, 2003 through February 28, 2006.

Under the P&S Act, the principal test for insolvency is to determine whether a person's current liabilities exceed his current assets. A packer found to be insolvent may be ordered to cease and desist from purchasing livestock. PM Beef has demonstrated to GIPSA that as of December 30, 2006, it was solvent.

Under the terms of the consent decision, PM Beef is ordered to cease and desist from:

- Failing to pay for livestock within the time required by the P&S Act;
- Issuing insufficient funds checks for livestock;
- Purchasing livestock on credit without written acknowledgement from sellers that they waived their trust protection; and
- Purchasing livestock while insolvent.

PM Beef has agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$24,000.

PM Beef operates a packing plant, PM Windom, in Windom, Minnesota.

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News Release

Release No.: 72-07

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USDA Proposes Changes to Regulations Governing Poultry Contracts

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) today proposed changes to regulations governing poultry contracts. The proposed amendments require that poultry companies deliver a copy of an offered contract to growers in a timely manner.

"The recommended requirements will help both growers and poultry companies by providing clear, thorough information at the start of the contracting process," said GIPSA Administrator James Link.

Contracts must include:

- Information on grower performance improvement plans, if they exist;
- Provisions requiring written termination notices; and
- Provisions allowing growers to discuss the terms of contracts with designated individuals.

GIPSA believes that failure to disclose certain contract terms is unfair, discriminatory and deceptive in violation of the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act of 1921.

The proposed changes were published in the August 1 Federal Register. Additional information is available in GIPSA's Federal Register notice at <http://archive.gipsa.usda.gov/rulemaking/fr07/8-1-07.pdf>. All interested parties are invited to submit comments on this proposal. GIPSA will consider comments received by Oct. 30, 2007. Comments can be submitted by e-mail to comments.gipsa@usda.gov; regular mail, courier or hand delivery to Tess Butler, GIPSA, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 1647-S, Washington, DC 20250-3604; by fax to (202) 690-2755 or via the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov.

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News Release

Release No.: 75-07

Contact:
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USDA CHANGES VOLUME DISCOUNT GUIDELINES

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) today announced a change in Agency policy to permit volume-based discounts in tariffs. Tariffs filed with GIPSA are schedules of rates and charges for stockyard services.

"The policy change allows livestock auction markets greater flexibility in setting rates and more effective competition with non-traditional markets such as satellite video and internet auction markets," said GIPSA Administrator James Link.

Historically, GIPSA required volume discounts to be tiered, allowing a discounted tariff rate after a certain number of animals sold. Non-tiered volume discounts were considered discriminatory and therefore prohibited. Tiered discounts involve commission rate structures with lower rates per head above a specified number of head threshold.

GIPSA's new policy will not attempt to differentiate between the levels of discounting but will rely on market competition and marketing systems to set rate levels that are fair to market agencies and livestock producers. Non-tiered volume based discounts will be considered discriminatory if a market agency does not provide the same discount to all qualifying consignors. The Packers and Stockyards Act requires market agencies at stockyards to file a tariff with GIPSA.

The change in policy was published in the August 14th, Federal Register. Additional information is available in GIPSA's Federal Register notice at archive.gipsa.usda.gov. The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.

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News Release

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GIPSA Honors Employees Receiving USDA Secretary's Honor Award

WASHINGTON, Oct. 19, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) Administrator James Link today recognized employees as recipients of the USDA Secretary's Honor Award. Employees from GIPSA's Business Practices and Resident Agent Units Team, located at its Midwestern Regional Office in Des Moines, Iowa, received a USDA 2007 Secretary's Honor Award. The team received the award from Acting Secretary Chuck Conner on Oct. 11, for their work in correcting illicit weighing practices in 28 livestock markets in 11 states.

"The Honor Awards are the most prestigious awards given by USDA and I'm proud of the hard work and dedication the GIPSA team showed while working to improve and enhance the competitiveness of the livestock industry," said Link.

GIPSA employees from the Midwestern Regional Office in Des Moines, Iowa, receiving the award for their work on the team were Bryce Wilke, William Arce-Arana, Gayle Barnett, Dewey Blatchford, Arlan DeBlieck, Adam Fast, Jerry Garner, Robert Merritt, Steve Pappaducas, Glenn Plumley, Terry Ryno, and Julie Shamblin.

The team members conducted compliance reviews at each of the 450 livestock markets in 11 states located in the Midwestern region. The reviews were initiated after determining that at least one auction market in the region was operating with scale gates that were not mounted on the platform of the scale as required for accurate weighing under the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) and regulations. When scale gates are not mounted to the platform inaccurate weighing will always occur, which results in lost revenue for the livestock sellers. The team found 28 scales that were not in compliance and gave the non-compliant markets time to take corrective action. The team then conducted follow-up investigations at each of the 28 markets, and all but three had corrected the problem. Investigative reports were subsequently prepared on these three markets for violations of the P&S Act.



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“The team members were committed to stopping an illicit weighing practice that had existed for many years at several of the markets, “ said Link. “Although no estimation has been made on the harm that might have occurred over time to livestock producers, it is likely to be several hundred thousand dollars per year. In addition, the team acted in an expeditious manner to correct the violations in a professional manner that further garnered the respect of the industry, livestock associations, and State weights and measures officials.”

For a listing of all Honor Awards recipients, go to
www.usda.gov/documents/60thhonorawards.pdf.

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.