



News Release

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Hubert Dennis Edwards Assessed a \$12,500 Civil Penalty

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18, 2016 – On Dec. 15, 2015, an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a decision and granted summary judgment against Hubert Dennis Edwards (Edwards), Marana, Ariz. The decision was the result of a complaint issued by the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA).

In the decision the ALJ ordered Edwards to cease and desist from:

- engaging in any business of a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce without maintaining a bond or bond equivalent; and
- purchasing livestock in commerce, and failing to pay, when due, the full purchase price of the livestock.

Edwards is prohibited from engaging in any activities for which registration is required under the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act until such time as Edwards demonstrates to the satisfaction of GIPSA that he has an adequate bond or bond equivalent and that he is in full compliance with the P&S Act. At such time and thereafter, any application for registration that Edwards may file with GIPSA will be processed in accordance with standard GIPSA procedures.

The ALJ also assessed Edwards a \$12,500 civil penalty.

Although Edwards filed an appeal with the Judicial Officer for the USDA, his appeal was denied on the grounds that sufficient time had passed making the decision and order from the ALJ final.

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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