



News Release

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Lake Odessa Livestock Auction, Inc. Assessed \$36,000 Civil Penalty; La Verne Lettinga Assessed \$12,000 Civil Penalty; Paul Lettinga Assessed \$6,000 Civil Penalty; Randy Lettinga Assessed \$6,000 Civil Penalty

WASHINGTON, March 29, 2017 – On Nov. 9, 2016, the U.S. Department of Agriculture issued a decision and order against Lake Odessa Livestock Auction, Inc. (Lake Odessa), La Verne Lettinga, Paul Lettinga and Randy Lettinga, Lake Odessa, Mich.

An Administrative Law Judge ordered Lake Odessa, La Verne Lettinga, Paul and Randy Lettinga to cease and desist from:

- failing to deposit in the Custodial Account for Shippers' Proceeds (custodial account) within the time prescribed amounts equal to the outstanding proceeds received or due from the sale of consigned livestock;
- failing to maintain a balance in the custodial account adequate to pay the consignors the proceeds from the sale of their livestock, even though maintaining that balance may require deposit of borrowed money from the general account, to substitute for slow-pay or no-pay buyers into the custodial account;
- failing to maintain the custodial account in strict conformity with the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act;
- using the custodial account funds for any purpose other than authorized such as using custodial funds to pay bank fees, misusing custodial funds in payment of the net proceeds from the sale of consigned livestock when in fact no livestock were consigned or sold, thereby engaging in unfair and deceptive practices and falsifying records by generating false invoices and generating and issuing checks in payment for livestock purchases that did not occur in order to disguise payment; and
- failing to keep accounts, records, and memoranda that fully and correctly disclose all transactions involved in their business.

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Lake Odessa Livestock Auction, Inc.
La Verne Lettinga
Paul Lettinga
Randy Lettinga
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Lake Odessa has been assessed a \$36,000 civil penalty; La Verne Lettinga has been assessed a \$12,000 civil penalty; Paul Lettinga has been assessed a \$6,000 civil penalty; and Randy Lettinga has been assessed a \$6,000 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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