

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

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In re:)
) P & S Docket No. D-11- 0011
)
Ronnie Lewis)
d.b.a)
Lazy L Order Buyers)
)
Respondent) Complaint

There is reason to believe that the Respondent named herein has willfully violated the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, as amended and supplemented (7 U.S.C. § 181 et seq.), (Act), and, therefore, this Complaint is issued alleging the following:

I

(a) Ronnie Lewis is an individual doing business as Lazy L Order Buyers, herein referred to as the Respondent. Respondent's business mailing address is his home address. In order to protect the personal privacy of Respondent, Complainant is not providing the Respondent's address in this Complaint, but Complainant has provided the address to the Hearing Clerk so that service can be effected.

(b) The Respondent, at all times material herein, was:

(1) Engaged in the business of buying livestock in commerce on a commission basis; and

(2) not registered, as required, as a dealer buying livestock in commerce on a commission basis, with the Secretary of Agriculture.

II

On or about May 29, 2010, Respondent was notified by certified mail that the Packers and Stockyards Program had information indicating that Respondent was operating as a dealer without being registered or maintaining an adequate bond as required by the Act. The letter referenced § 312 of the Act (7 U.S.C § 213) and section 201.29 of the Regulations (9 C.F.R § 201.29), and notified the Respondent of his obligation to register and to secure a bond or bond equivalent in his name. The letter specifically acknowledged that Respondent was in the process of taking over the dealer operation of Respondent's mother, Erma L. Lewis doing business as Lazy L Order Buyers and advised Respondent to change the name on the then-current bond to Respondent's name from Erma L. Lewis. The letter stated that unless Respondent provided proof of suitable bond or bond equivalent with the Packers and Stockyards Program under Respondent's name, Respondent needed to discontinue all livestock operations for which bonding is required under the Act.

Respondent's registration application was received by the Packers & Stockyards program on June 7, 2010. However, Respondent failed to comply with the bonding requirements of the Act adequate bond as required by the Act and the Regulations. Specifically, Respondent failed to submit an updated surety bond to the Packers & Stockyards Program under his name. Finally, on December 15, 2010, the surety bond under the name of Erma L. Lewis doing business as Lazy L Order Buyers terminated and, to date, has not been renewed.

III

On or about the dates and in the transactions set forth below, Respondent engaged in the business of a dealer without maintaining an adequate bond or bond equivalent.

DATE OF PURCHASE	SELLER	NO. HEAD	COMMISSION AMOUNT
3/8/2011	Sumter County (Webster, FL)	64	\$640.00
4/6/2011	North Florida (Lake City, FL)	38	\$380.00
4/12/2011	Sumter County (Webster, FL)	56	\$560.00

IV

On or about the dates and in the transactions set forth in Appendix A, Respondent:

- (a) purchased livestock and failed to pay the full purchase price of such livestock;
- and
- (b) purchased livestock and failed to pay, when due, the full purchase price of such livestock; and
- (c) issued checks in partial payment for livestock purchases which were returned by the bank upon which they were drawn; these checks were returned because Respondent did not have and maintain sufficient funds on deposit and available in the account upon which the checks were drawn to pay such checks when presented. The checks, totaling \$ 38,205.19, remain unpaid as of the date of the issuance of the Complaint.

V

By reason of the facts alleged in paragraphs II, III and IV of the Complaint, the Respondent has willfully violated sections 312(a) of the Act (7 U.S.C. § 213(a)) and section 201.29 of the Regulations (9 C.F.R § 201.29).

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that for the purpose of determining whether the Respondent has in fact willfully violated the Act, this Complaint shall be served upon the

Respondent. The Respondent shall file an answer with the Hearing Clerk, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, in accordance with the Rules of Practice governing proceedings under the Act (7 C.F.R. § 1.130 et seq.). Failure to file an answer shall constitute an admission of all the material allegations of this complaint.

Packers and Stockyards Program, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, requests:

1. That unless the Respondent fails to file an answer within the time allowed therefor, or files an answer admitting all the material allegations of this complaint, this proceeding be set for oral hearing in accordance with the Rules of Practice governing proceedings under the Act; and
2. That such order or orders be issued, including an order requiring the Respondent to cease and desist from the violations found to exist, and assessing such civil penalties as are authorized by the Act and warranted in the premises.

Done at Washington, D.C.

this 5th day of October, 2011



Alan R. Christian
Deputy Administrator
Packers and Stockyards Program

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