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# USDA

**Grain Inspection,  
Packers and Stockyards  
Administration**

# Packers & Stockyards Program

**United States  
Department of Agriculture**

[www.gipsa.usda.gov](http://www.gipsa.usda.gov)



## **Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration Mission**

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (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.

## **Packers and Stockyards Program Mission**

GIPSA's Packers and Stockyards Program (P&SP) promotes fair business practices and competitive environments to market livestock, meat, and poultry. Through its oversight activities, including monitoring programs, reviews, and investigations, P&SP fosters fair competition, provides payment protection, and guards against deceptive and fraudulent trade practices that affect the movement and price of meat animals and their products. P&SP's work protects consumers and members of the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.

P&SP, under the direction of the Administrator of GIPSA, is primarily responsible for administering and enforcing the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act).

## **The Packers and Stockyards Act**

- Prompted by Federal Trade Commission investigation into the amount of control exercised by the Nation's five largest meat packing and livestock and meat marketing firms.
- Enacted in August 15, 1921, to assure effective competition and integrity in the marketing of livestock, meat, and poultry.
- Updated several times to keep pace with a changing and dynamic industry.
- Provides payment protection by requiring prompt payment, bonding, packer and poultry trusts, and market agency custodial accounts.
- Covers unlawful acts—unfair, deceptive, discriminatory, or monopolistic practices—in the marketing of livestock, meat, and poultry.

## **The Food Security Act**

In addition to its primary responsibility, P&SP carries out limited responsibilities for the Secretary of Agriculture under Section 1324 of the Food Security Act of 1985. These responsibilities include review of "central filing systems" established by States for pre-notification of security interests against farm products.

## **The Truth-in-Lending, Fair Credit Reporting, and Freedom of Information Acts**

P&SP is responsible for bringing formal actions for violations of the Truth-in-Lending Act and the Fair Credit Reporting Act by persons and firms subject to the P&S Act. P&SP also responds to requests for information from the public under the Freedom of Information Act.

## **Packers and Stockyards Program Personnel and Organization**

The headquarters office, in Washington, D.C., is comprised of the Deputy Administrator's Office, and two divisions. The Policy and Litigation Division (PLD) develops regulations, policies and procedures, and provides litigation support. The Industry Analysis Division (IAD) conducts economic and statistical analyses, directs and coordinates research in support of GIPSA's mission, supports industry surveillance, investigations and associated analyses, and administers Section 1324 of the Food Security Act of 1985.

Three regional offices in Atlanta, GA; Des Moines, IA; and Aurora, CO conduct industry surveillance, investigations, and regulatory compliance reviews for enforcement of the P&S Act.