

**GIPSA  
Press  
Release**

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Grain Inspection,  
Packers and  
Stockyards  
Administration

STOP 3601  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, D.C.  
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GIPSA Release 38-12

Catherine M. Grasso 202-720-7201  
Catherine.M.Grasso@usda.gov

**GIPSA Alleges Golden West Cattle Co., LLC, and Michael Kastner  
Violated the Packers and Stockyards Act**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9, 2012 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration has found evidence that Golden West Cattle Co., LLC (Golden West), and Michael Kastner (Kastner), Colorado Springs, Colo.:

- issued checks in payment for livestock purchases without having the funds to cover the checks; and
- purchased livestock and failed to pay the full purchase price for the livestock within the time period required by the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act.

GIPSA filed a complaint against Golden West and Kastner on January 26, 2012. The complaint can be found on the GIPSA website: <http://www.gipsa.usda.gov/psp/enforcement.html>. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, Golden West and Kastner may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the P&S Act and assessed a civil penalty.

Golden West was engaged in the business of buying livestock in commerce for the purpose of slaughter, and manufacturing or preparing meats or meat products for sale or shipment in commerce and is a packer.

Kastner was 100% owner, president, and responsible for the direction, management, and control of Golden West. He is also a packer and subject to the provisions of the P&S Act and the alter-ego of Golden West.

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.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272(voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).