GIPSA Press

Release

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Agriculture

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration STOP 3601 1400 Independence Ave., SW Washington, D.C.

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GIPSA Alleges Steven Demarest, Brenda Demarest, P. Scott Baldwin, and Deborah Baldwin, dba Wyalusing Livestock Market Violated the Packers and Stockyards Act

WASHINGTON, Mar. 8, 2012 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) have found evidence that Steven Demarest, Brenda Demarest, P. Scott Baldwin, and Deborah Baldwin (the respondents), doing business as Wyalusing Livestock Market, Wyalusing, Pa.:

- failed to properly use and maintain their custodial account by failing to deposit
 into their custodial account an amount equal to the proceeds receivable from the
 sale of consigned livestock resulting in custodial account shortages at Wyalusing
 Livestock Market endangering the prompt accounting of shippers' proceeds and
 the payments due to the owners of consignors of livestock; and
- failed to keep and maintain records which fully and accurately disclosed the true nature of their operations subject to the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act and failed to keep and maintain custodial account reconciliations with outstanding check lists.

GIPSA filed a complaint against the respondents on February 17, 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, the respondents may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act, suspended, and assessed a civil penalty.

The respondents were engaged in the business of a market agency selling consigned livestock in commerce on a commission basis and are not currently registered with the Secretary of Agriculture.

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).