

GIPSA Enforcement Action

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Grain Inspection,
Packers and
Stockyards
Administration

STOP 3601
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C.
20250-3601

GIPSA Release 76-12

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GIPSA Settles a Case with Niman Ranch, Inc., dba Niman Ranch Pork Company, LLC Resulting in a \$5,000 Penalty

WASHINGTON, Mar. 22, 2012 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration’s (GIPSA) enforcement rules provide a mechanism to quickly resolve violations of the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act. GIPSA may offer an alleged violator the option of waiving their right to a hearing and entering into a stipulation agreement to quickly resolve alleged violations.

Niman Ranch, Inc., dba Niman Ranch Pork Company, LLC, Sioux Center, Iowa -- waived their right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and agreed to pay a penalty of \$5,000 after GIPSA found that they failed to disclose the production contract grower right to cancel, failed to include the required disclosure of additional capital investment in production contracts; and failed to include a provision that allows a producer or grower to decline the requirement to use arbitration.

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).