

# **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

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GIPSA Release 262-12

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## **GIPSA Settles a Case with Thomas Cattle Buying Services, Inc., and Bradley Etheridge Resulting in a \$8,000 Penalty**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27, 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.

**Thomas Cattle Buying Services, Inc. and Bradley Etheridge, Williston, Fla.** -- waived their right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and agreed to pay a penalty of \$8,000 after GIPSA found that they failed to pay, when due, for livestock.

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 and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).