

**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 05-12

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**GIPSA Alleges Tyson Farms, Inc.  
Violated the Packers and Stockyards Act**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12, 2012 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has found evidence that Tyson Farms, Inc. (respondent), Springdale, Ark.:

- placed flocks of birds with poultry growers that were of different breeds – Cobb 500 and Cobb 700;
- settled all flocks in a weekly settlement system such that flock performance was averaged and compared with the performance of flocks from each grower whose birds were slaughtered that week;
- respondent knew and should have known that it was placing genetically different breeds of birds with different growers and settling those growers as part of the same settlement group; and
- unfairly and deceptively compared growers of Cobb 700 birds to growers of Cobb 500 birds, resulting in substantial underpayments to growers whose flocks included Cobb 700 birds.

GIPSA filed a complaint against the respondent on December 20, 2011. 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 respondent may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the Packers and Stockyards (P&S Act) and assessed a civil penalty.

The respondent was engaged in the business of obtaining live poultry by purchase or under poultry growing arrangements for the purpose of slaughter; shipping processed poultry products in commerce; and operating as a live poultry dealer subject to the provisions of the P&S Act.

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).