

**GIPSA
Press
Release**

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Grain Inspection,
Packers and
Stockyards
Administration

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**GIPSA and Ocala Livestock Market, Inc. Agree to Consent Decision;
Preliminary Injunction Lifted**

WASHINGTON, May 18, 2012 – On May 17, 2012, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) entered into a consent decision with the Ocala Livestock Market, Inc. and its owners Michael Yeomans and Tobitha Yeomans. The consent decision resolves allegations brought by GIPSA against the Ocala market and its owners that the market was failing to properly maintain its custodial account and was insolvent, both violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921. Also, because livestock sellers would have been put at financial risk if Ocala Livestock continued to operate, a preliminary injunction was issued on May 10, 2012, by the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida effectively shutting down the livestock auction.

Under the terms of the consent decision, Ocala Livestock, Michael Yeomans and Tobitha Yeomans are ordered to cease and desist from:

- failing to properly maintain their custodial account in compliance with Packers and Stockyards (P&S) regulations,
- using funds received from the sale of consigned livestock for any purpose other than those purposes specifically provided in P&S regulations, and
- operating while their current liabilities exceed their current assets.

Ocala Livestock, Michael Yeomans and Tobitha Yeomans are also assessed a civil penalty in the amount \$9,500.

In addition, the consent decision provides that the Department of Justice will be notified of this agreement. Upon receipt of this notification, the U.S. District Court is expected to issue an order lifting the preliminary injunction and allowing Ocala Livestock to resume operations.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.

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