

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 13-12

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GIPSA Settles Cases Resulting in \$8,950 in Civil Penalties

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12, 2011 – 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.

GIPSA settles cases resulting in \$8,950 in civil penalties.

Craig Lofredo, Production Director, Swine Graphics Enterprises, LLP, Webster City, Iowa -- waived his right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and agreed to pay a penalty of \$4,500 after GIPSA found that three swine contracts did not contain the required “Additional Capital Investments Disclosure Statement”.

Richard C. Mercer, Laveen, Ariz. -- waived his right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and agreed to pay a penalty of \$1,450 after GIPSA found that he failed to pay when due for livestock and failed to keep true and accurate records.

Ernest R. Gard, Clovis, N.M. -- waived his right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and agreed to pay a penalty of \$3,000 after GIPSA found that he failed to pay for livestock within the time period required by the P&S Act and failed to maintain adequate records.

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).