

**GIPSA
Press
Release**

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Grain Inspection,
Packers and
Stockyards
Administration

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

GIPSA Release 231-12

Catherine M. Grasso 202-720-7201
Catherine.M.Grasso@usda.gov

GIPSA Alleges Florence Meat Packing Co., Inc., d/b/a White House Packing Company, and Gypson J. and Sonia G. Fernandez Violated The Packers and Stockyards Act

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16, 2012 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has found evidence that Florence Meat Packing Co., Inc., doing business as White House Packing Company, Fairmont, N.C. (Florence Meat Packing) and Gypson J. and Sonia G. Fernandez:

- purchased livestock and failed to pay, when due, for the livestock purchases;
- as of the date of filing this complaint, they owe \$272,353.71 for livestock purchases; and
- issued checks in payment for livestock purchases without having sufficient funds to cover the checks.

GIPSA filed a complaint against Florence Meat Packing, Gypson J. and Sonia G. Fernandez on August 6, 2012. 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, Florence Meat Packing, Gypson J. and Sonia G. Fernandez may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act, and assessed a civil penalty.

Florence Meat Packing, under the direction, management, and control of Gypson J. and Sonia G. Fernandez, engaged in the business of buying livestock in commerce for the purposes of slaughter and was a packer. Florence Meat Packing ceased operations on or about August 26, 2011.

Gypson J. and Sonia G. Fernandez were president and secretary, respectively; together they owned 100% of Florence Meat Packing; were responsible for the direction, management and control of Florence Meat Packing; and are packers.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Office of 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).

Florence Meat Packing Co., Inc.
d/b/a White House Packing Company
Gypson J. and Sonia G. Fernandez
Page 2

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 Office of 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).