

**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 270-12

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**Stephen Smeal, d/b/a Fatted Calf Cattle Farms #6
Has Been Assessed A \$200,000 Civil Penalty**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 4, 2012 – On September 24, 2012, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration entered into a consent decision with Stephen Smeal (Smeal), doing business as Fatted Calf Cattle Farms #6, Canton, Texas.

Smeal has been ordered to cease and desist from:

- failing to pay and failing to pay, when due, the full purchase price for livestock purchases; and
- issuing checks in payment for livestock without having and maintaining sufficient funds on deposit to pay such checks when presented.

Smeal has been assessed a civil penalty in the amount of \$200,000 which will be held in abeyance in accordance with and pending compliance with the terms of the “Understanding Regarding Consent Decision” (Understanding) entered between the parties. The amount of the civil penalty held in abeyance will be reduced by \$20,000 each year on July 1.

After Smeal has filed his first monthly report as required by the Understanding entered into between the parties, Smeal’s application as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce and as a market agency buying livestock on a commission basis in commerce will be processed in accordance with the Understanding.

Upon acceptance of Smeal’s application for registration as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce and as a market agency buying livestock on a commission basis in commerce, Smeal will be suspended as a registrant for 30 days. This period of suspension will be held in abeyance provided that Smeal is in compliance with the terms of the Consent Decision and with the Understanding.

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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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