

**GIPSA
Press
Release**

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Grain Inspection,
Packers and
Stockyards
Administration

STOP 3601
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**GIPSA Alleges The Smithfield Packing Company, Inc.
Violated the Packers and Stockyards Act**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2, 2012 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has found evidence that The Smithfield Packing Company, Inc. (Smithfield), Smithfield, Va.:

- used an inaccurate scale to obtain hot carcass weights at its Smithfield, Va., facility on August 19, 2008, paying producers for those livestock based on the resulting weights;
- used an inaccurate scale to obtain hot carcass weights at its Tar Heel, N.C., facility on March 10, 2009, and March 9, 2011; and
- did not maintain a complete set of calibrated test weights necessary to properly test the accuracy of the scales at its Tar Heel, N.C., facility.

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

Smithfield was engaged in the business of buying livestock in commerce for the purpose of slaughter and manufacturing or preparing meats or meat products for sale or shipment in commerce and is a packer.

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.

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