

**GIPSA
Press
Release**

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Grain Inspection,
Packers and
Stockyards
Administration

STOP 3601
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Washington, D.C.
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**North American Bison Cooperative and North Dakota Natural Beef, LLC
Have Been Assessed a Civil Penalty in the Amount of \$140,000**

WASHINGTON, Apr. 9, 2012 – On March 22, 2012, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) entered into a consent decision with North American Bison Cooperative and North Dakota Natural Beef, LLC (the respondents), Fargo, N.D.

The respondents have been ordered to cease and desist from failing to pay and failing to pay, when due, the full purchase price of livestock.

They are ordered to make immediate payment for all livestock purchases until such time that they demonstrate to GIPSA that their current assets exceed their current liabilities.

The respondents have also been assessed a civil penalty in the amount of \$140,000 of which \$125,000 will be held in abeyance until the respondents make restitution to unpaid sellers of approximately \$325,000.

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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