



News Release

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GIPSA Alleges Mount Airy Stockyard, Inc., Venancio Torres, and Deborah Torres Violated the Packers and Stockyards Act

WASHINGTON, June 29, 2016 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has found evidence that Mount Airy Stockyard, Inc. (Mount Airy), Venancio Torres, and Deborah Torres, Mount Airy, N.C.:

- operated with shortages in Mount Airy’s custodial account;
- operated Mount Airy while its current liabilities exceeded its current assets;
- failed to file required form PSP7002 – Supplemental Balance Sheet Special Report within 30 days from the Notice of Default that was sent;
- issued checks in remittance of proceeds for livestock that were sold on consignor’s behalf which were returned for insufficient funds;
- misused Mount Airy’s custodial account by transferring custodial funds to other accounts, and allowed Mount Airy’s bank to withdraw fees and charges from its custodial account; and
- received a notice from GIPSA to cease operations on October 10, 2014, and continued to engage in business as a market agency selling livestock on commission.

GIPSA filed a complaint against Mount Airy, Venancio Torres, and Deborah Torres on May 2, 2016. The complaint can be found on the GIPSA website: www.gipsa.usda.gov/psp/enforcement.aspx. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, Mount Airy, Venancio Torres, and Deborah Torres may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act, suspended, and/or assessed a civil penalty.

Mount Airy is registered with the Secretary of Agriculture; was engaged in the business of a market agency selling livestock in commerce on a commission basis; and, operated a stockyard posted under and subject to the provisions of the P&S Act.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866)632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800)877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866)377-8642 (Relay voice users).

Mount Airy Stockyard, Inc.

Venancio Torres

Deborah Torres

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Venancio Torres was engaged in the business of a market agency as that term is defined and used in the P&S Act and the regulations; engaged in the business of conducting and operating a stockyard posted under and subject to the provisions of the P&S Act; president and 50% owner of Mount Airy; and responsible for the day-to-day direction, management and control of Mount Airy including the acts and practices referred to in this complaint.

Deborah Torres was engaged in the business of a market agency as that term is defined and used in the P&S Act and the regulations; engaged in the business of conducting and operating a stockyard posted under and subject to the provisions of the P&S Act; vice-president, secretary, treasurer and 50% owner of Mount Airy; and responsible for the day-to-day direction, management and control of Mount Airy including the acts and practices referred to in this complaint.

As of February 10, 2015, Mount Airy had ceased all operations and as of February 12, 2015, its trust fund agreement terminated.

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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