



Grain Inspection,  
Packers and  
Stockyards Administration

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# News Release

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## **Stephen Smeal, d/b/a Fatted Calf Cattle Farms #6 Has Been Assessed a \$84,000 Civil Penalty**

**WASHINGTON**, Aug. 16, 2016 – On August 2, 2016, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) entered into a consent decision and order with Stephen Smeal, doing business as Fatted Calf Cattle Farms #6, Canton, Texas.

An Administrative Law Judge ordered Stephen Smeal to cease and desist from failing to pay, when due, the full purchase price of livestock and issuing checks in payment for livestock without having and maintaining sufficient funds on deposit and available when the checks were presented for payment.

He was also assessed a \$84,000 civil penalty which will be held in abeyance in accordance with and pending compliance with the terms of the “Understanding Regarding Consent Decision” entered between the parties. The civil penalty will be held in abeyance for four years beginning on the date that this order became final and effective. This is provided that Stephen Smeal complies with the terms of this consent decision and order and with the understanding regarding consent decision. He is to successfully complete 48 consecutive full payments to the livestock sellers that are owed. For every 12 payments that are made timely, \$21,000 of the civil penalty will be waived. If completed, at the end of 4 years the full \$84,000 will be paid back to the livestock sellers and the civil penalty will be waived.

In addition to the civil penalty, he is suspended as a registrant under the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act for 30 days. Fifteen consecutive days of this period of suspension will be held in abeyance provided he is in full compliance with the terms of this consent decision and order and with the understanding regarding consent decision. The remaining 15 consecutive days of this period of suspension must be served within

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60 days from the 6th day after service of this consent decision and order. He is prohibited from engaging in business subject to the P&S Act without being registered with the Packers and Stockyards Program.

The consent decision and order resolves a complaint that GIPSA filed against Stephen Smeal on July 14, 2016.

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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