

Agricultural Marketing Service

Packers and Stockyards Division

AMS' Packers and Stockyards Division promotes fair business practices and competitive environments to market livestock, meat, and poultry. Through our oversight activities, including monitoring programs, reviews, and investigations, we foster fair competition, provide payment protection, and guard against deceptive and fraudulent trade practices that affect the movement and price of meat animals and their products. Our work protects consumers and members of the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.

Under the direction of the AMS Deputy Administrator for the Fair Trade Practices Program, we administer and enforce the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act).

The Packers & Stockyards Division protects fair trade practices, financial integrity and competitive markets for livestock, meat and poultry.

www.ams.usda.gov



Packers and Stockyards Act

- Enacted on August 15, 1921, to assure effective competition and integrity in the marketing of livestock, meat, and poultry.
- Prompted by a Federal Trade Commission investigation into the amount of control exercised by the Nation's five largest meat packing and livestock and meat marketing firms.
- Updated several times to keep pace with a changing and dynamic industry. Provides payment protection by requiring prompt payment, bonding, packer and poultry trusts, and

market agency custodial accounts.

- Covers unlawful acts—unfair, deceptive, discriminatory, or monopolistic practices—in the marketing of livestock, meat, and poultry.

Food Security Act, Section 1324

In addition to our primary responsibility for the P&S Act, we carry out limited responsibilities for the Secretary of Agriculture under Section 1324 of the Food Security Act of 1985. These responsibilities include review of "central filing systems" established by States for pre-notification of security interests against farm products.

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Truth-in-Lending, Fair Credit Reporting, and Freedom of Information Acts

We are responsible for bringing formal actions for violations of the Truth-in-Lending Act and the Fair Credit Reporting Act by persons and firms subject to the P&S Act. We also respond to requests for information from the public under the Freedom of Information Act.

Packers and Stockyards Division Personnel and Organization

Our headquarters office, in Washington, D.C., is comprised of the Director's Office and staff. Our headquarters staff develops regulations, press releases, publications, and content for AMS' public website; provides litigation support; maintains official posting and deposing records for stockyards subject to the P&S Act; and administers Section 1324 of the Food Security Act of 1985. It also conducts economic and statistical analyses; directs and coordinates research in support of AMS' mission; and supports industry surveillance, investigations, and associated analyses.

Three regional offices in Atlanta, GA; Des Moines, IA; and Aurora, CO conduct industry surveillance, investigations, and regulatory compliance reviews for enforcement of the P&S Act.

PSD Eastern Regional Office

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Atlanta, GA 30303-3601
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Email: PSDAtlantaGA@usda.gov

Region Includes: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and U.S. Territories.

PSD Midwestern Regional Office

210 Walnut Street, Suite 317
Des Moines, IA 50309-2110
Phone: 515-323-2579
Fax: 515-323-2590
Email: PSDDesMoinesIA@usda.gov

Region Includes: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

PSD Western Regional Office

3950 Lewiston Street, Suite 200
Aurora, CO 80011-1556

Phone: 303-375-4240
Fax: 303-371-4609
Email: PSDDenverCO@usda.gov

Region Includes: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Please direct comments or questions about this publication to the following:

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service

Fair Trade Practices Program
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