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).

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.

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

www.ams.usda.gov
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 depositing 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.

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