



Operational Guidance for Reporting by Lot

Issue: Submission of information on an individual lot basis.

Livestock and Grain Market News Position: The regulations require packers to submit all covered information on an individual lot basis where a lot is defined as a group of one or more livestock that is identified for the purpose of a single transaction between a buyer and a seller.

Packers often make purchases that require multiple shipments to deliver to the plant. For example, a 2,000 head transaction might require 10 separate shipments which could be from multiple locations. Some packers are submitting this information as 10 separate lot transactions and providing data for each shipment rather than aggregating it into a one lot transaction for submission. Packer's internal accounting systems are programmed to enable them to track the history (carcass data) of each load for purposes of pricing future loads from these locations. Requiring packers to change their internal electronic system to aggregate this information would impose an unnecessary burden on them.

Livestock and Grain Market News Guidance: It is not a violation of the Act for packers to provide multiple submissions of single transactions as long as these submissions are documented and can be traced to the original transaction (e.g. document that the 10 loads all belonged to the 2,000 head purchase).