



Grain Inspection,  
Packers and  
Stockyards Administration

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# News Release

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## **Mount Airy Stockyard, Inc., Venancio Torres and Deborah Torres Ordered to Cease and Desist and Paid a \$15,000 Civil Penalty**

**WASHINGTON**, Sept. 12, 2016 – On Aug. 18, 2016, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) entered into a decision without hearing by reason of consent with Mount Airy Stockyard, Inc. (Mount Airy), Venancio Torres and Deborah Torres, Mount Airy, N.C.

An Administrative Law Judge ordered Mount Airy, Venancio Torres and Deborah Torres to cease and desist from:

- failing to timely remit proceeds to consignors;
- failing to properly maintain and use their custodial account; and
- issuing insufficient funds checks.

They have been ordered to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$15,000. Six thousand dollars was immediately due and payable. The remaining \$9,000 of the civil penalty will be held in abeyance for 1 year. If they fail to comply with any of the terms of this consent decision during the period of abeyance, the full civil penalty shall be reinstated and any remaining balance of the civil penalty will become immediately due and payable.

They are also prohibited from operating in any capacity requiring registration under the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act for 135 days, and thereafter, until they demonstrate full compliance with the P&S Act and the regulations. After expiration of the initial 135 day period, provided they demonstrate full compliance with the P&S Act and the regulations, and upon application to the Packers and Stockyards Program, a supplemental order may be issued in this proceeding terminating the prohibition.

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Mount Airy Stockyard, Inc.  
Venancio Torres  
Deborah Torres  
Page 2

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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