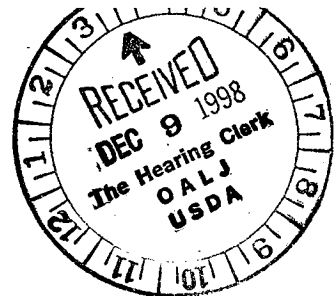


Davis



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

In re: ) P. & S. Docket No. D-96-18  
 )  
 L & S Cattle Company, a )  
 partnership, Doug Sasseen )  
 and Donnie Stidham, )  
 )  
 Respondents ) Decision with respect to  
 ) L & S Cattle Company, a  
 ) partnership, and Doug Sasseen

This proceeding was instituted under the Packers and Stockyards Act (7 U.S.C. § 181 et seq.) by a complaint and notice of hearing filed by the Deputy Administrator, Packers and Stockyards Programs, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, United States Department of Agriculture, alleging that the respondents wilfully violated the Act. This decision is entered pursuant to the consent decision provisions of the Rules of Practice applicable to this proceeding (7 C.F.R. § 1.138).

The respondents admit the jurisdictional allegations in paragraph I of the complaint and notice of hearing and specifically admit that the Secretary has jurisdiction in this matter, neither admit nor deny the remaining allegations, waive oral hearing and further procedure, and consent and agree, for the purpose of settling this proceeding and for such purpose only, to the entry of this decision.

The complainant agrees to the entry of this decision.

Findings of Fact

1. L & S Cattle Company, hereinafter referred to as respondent L & S, is a partnership consisting of Colin Lafferty and Doug Sasseen whose business mailing address is HCR 80, Box 29C Bakersfield, Missouri 65609.

2. Respondent L & S is and at all times material herein was:

a. Engaged in the business of a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce for its own account and for the accounts of others;

b. Engaged in the business of a market agency buying livestock on a commission basis;

c. Registered with the Secretary of Agriculture as a dealer to buy and sell livestock in commerce and as a market agency to buy livestock on a commission basis; and

d. Purchased livestock as an agent for Tennessee Dressed Beef Co., Inc. and Service Packing Company.

3. Doug Sasseen, hereinafter referred to as respondent Sasseen, is an individual whose business mailing address is HCR 80, Box 29C Bakersfield, Missouri 65609.

4. Respondent Sasseen is and at all times material herein was:

a. Engaged in the business of a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account and for the accounts of others;

b. Engaged in the business of a market agency buying livestock on a commission basis; and

c. Registered as a partnership with Colin Lafferty with the Secretary of Agriculture as a dealer to buy and sell livestock in commerce and as a market agency to buy livestock on a commission basis.

5. Donnie Stidham, hereinafter referred to as respondent Stidham, is an individual whose business mailing address is P. O. Box 19, Buffalo, Missouri 65622.

6. Respondent Stidham is and at all times material herein was:

a. Engaged in the business of a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account and for the accounts of others; and

b. Registered with the Secretary of Agriculture as a dealer to buy and sell livestock in commerce.

### Conclusions

Because the respondents have admitted the jurisdictional facts and the parties have agreed to the entry of this decision, such decision will be entered.

### Order

Respondent L & S Cattle Company, its partners, agents, employees, successors and assigns, and respondent Doug Sasseen, individually or through any corporate or other device, in connection with their operations subject to the Packers and Stockyards Act, shall cease and desist from engaging in unfair and deceptive practices under the Act by purchasing livestock, subsequently consigning that livestock and repurchasing the same livestock in order to artificially inflate prices for the ultimate purchasers of the livestock.

In accordance with section 312(b) of the Act (7 U.S.C. §213(b)), respondent Doug Sasseen is suspended as a registrant under the Act for a period of six (6) months.

The provisions of this order shall become effective on the sixth day after service of this order on the respondents.



Copies of this decision shall be served upon the parties.

L & S CATTLE COMPANY, a partnership

By Doug Sasseen 11-30-98

Partner  
Title

Doug Sasseen  
DOUG SASSEEN  
Respondents

Jane McAvitt  
JANE MCCAIVITT  
Attorney for Complainant

Issued this 9th day of December 1998

Edwin S. Bernstein  
EDWIN S. BERNSTEIN  
Administrative Law Judge