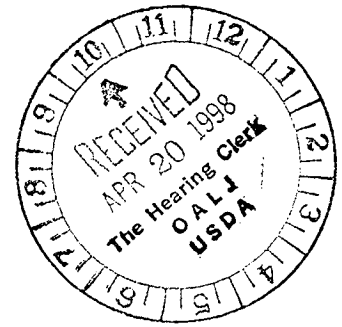


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

In re:) P. & S. Docket No. D-98-004
)
Tom Hodge,)
)
Respondent) Decision

This proceeding was instituted under the Packers and Stockyards Act (7 U.S.C. § 181 et seq.), by a complaint filed by the Deputy Administrator, Packers and Stockyards Programs, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, United States Department of Agriculture, alleging that the respondent wilfully violated the Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder (9 C.F.R. § 201.1 et seq.). This decision is entered pursuant to the consent decision provision of the Rules of Practice applicable to this proceeding (7 C.F.R. § 1.138).

The respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations in paragraph I of the complaint and specifically admits that the Secretary has jurisdiction in this matter, neither admits nor denies the remaining allegations, waives oral hearing and further procedure, and consents and agrees, 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. Tom Hodge, operating in the name of Hodge Cattle Company, hereinafter referred to as the respondent, is an individual whose business mailing address is 1323 County Road 414, Houston, Mississippi 38851.

2. Respondent is, and at all times material herein was:

(a) Engaged in the business as a dealer and market agency buying livestock in commerce on a commission basis; and

(b) Registered with the Secretary of Agriculture as a dealer to buy and sell livestock in commerce for his own account.

Conclusions

The respondent having admitted the jurisdictional facts and the parties having agreed to the entry of this decision, such decision will be entered.

Order


Respondent Tom Hodge, his agents and employees, directly or indirectly through any corporate or other device, in connection with his operations subject to the Packers and Stockyards Act, shall cease and desist from engaging in business in any capacity for which bonding is required under the Packers and Stockyards Act, as amended and supplemented, and the regulations, without filing and maintaining an adequate bond or its equivalent, as required by the Act and the regulations.

Respondent is suspended as a registrant under the Act until such time as he complies fully with the bonding requirements under the Act and the regulations. When respondent demonstrates that he is in full compliance with such bonding requirements, a supplemental order will be issued in this proceeding terminating the suspension.

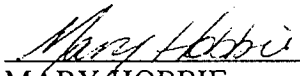
In accordance with section 312(b) of the Act (7 U.S.C. § 213(b)), respondent is hereby assessed a civil penalty in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).

This order shall have the same force and effect as if entered after full hearing and shall become effective on the first day after service of this order on the respondent.

Copies of this decision shall be served upon the parties.

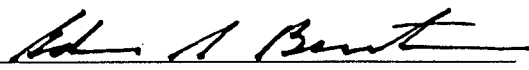


TOM HODGE
Respondent



MARY HOBBIIE
Attorney for Complainant

Issued this 20 day of April 1998



Administrative Law Judge