UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

In re:)   P&S Docket No. *13-0087*
)
)
Piedmont Livestock, Inc., and   )
Joseph Ray Jones,   )
)
)
            Respondents   )   Complaint

There is reason to believe that the respondents named herein have willfully violated the

Packers & Stockyards Act, 1921, as amended and supplemented (7 U.S.C. § 181 *et seq.*) and the

regulations promulgated thereunder by the Secretary of Agriculture (9 C.F.R. § 201.1 *et seq.*)

and, therefore, this complaint is issued alleging the following:

I

(a)   Respondent Piedmont Livestock, Inc., is a corporation organized and existing under the

laws of the State of North Carolina. Its principal place of business is located at 2471 Basin

Creek Road, Burlington, North Carolina 27217, and its mailing address is P.O. Box 217,

Altamahaw, North Carolina 27202.

(b)   Respondent Joseph Ray Jones is an individual with a business mailing address of

Piedmont Livestock, Inc., P.O. Box 217, Altamahaw, North Carolina 27202. Respondent Joseph

Ray Jones is the president and 100% owner of the corporate respondent. Respondent Joseph Ray

Jones is, and at all times material herein was, responsible for the direction, management, and

control of the corporate respondent, including responsibility for the violations of the Act and

regulations described in this complaint.

(c)   Respondents are, and at all times material herein were:

     (1)   Engaged in the business of a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce; and

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

II

During the period from October 10, 2011, through November 21, 2011, in sixteen transactions involving respondents' purchase of a total of 342 head of livestock from ten different sellers for a total purchase price of $255,077.31, respondents failed to pay, when due, the full amount of the livestock purchase price.

III

By reason of the facts alleged in paragraph II, respondents willfully violated sections 312(a) and 409 of the Act (7 U.S.C. §§ 213(a) and 228b) and section 201.43 of the regulations (9 C.F.R. § 201.43).

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that for the purpose of determining whether respondents have in fact willfully violated the Act and regulations issued thereunder, this complaint shall be served upon respondents. Respondents shall have twenty (20) days following receipt of this complaint to file an Answer with the Hearing Clerk, Room 1031 - South Building, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9200, in accordance with the Rules of Practice governing the proceedings under the Act (7 C.F.R. § 1.130 *et seq.*). Allegations not answered shall be deemed admitted for the purpose of this proceeding. Failure to file an answer will constitute an admission of all the material allegations in this complaint and a waiver of hearing.

The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration requests:

1. That unless respondents fail to file an answer within the time allowed, or file an answer admitting all the material allegations of this complaint, this proceeding be set for oral hearing in accordance with the Rules of Practice; and

2. That an order be issued requiring respondents to cease and desist from the violations of the Act and the regulations found to exist, suspending respondents as a registrants under the Act for a specified period, and assessing such civil penalties against respondents as are authorized by the Act and warranted by the facts and circumstances of this case.

Done at Washington, D.C.

this /6 day of November 2012

for A.R.C.

Alan R. Christian
Deputy Administrator
Packers and Stockyards Program

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