REC'D - USDA/OALJ/HCO
2025 JULY 30 3:00 PM

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

In re:	
Jerry Stokes	P&S Docket No. 25-J-0044
Respondent	**Consent Decision and Order**

This proceeding was instituted under the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, as amended and supplemented (7 U.S.C. § 181 et seq.) ("Act"), by a Complaint filed by the Deputy Administrator, Fair Trade Practices Program, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), United States Department of Agriculture, alleging that the Respondent willfully violated the Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder (9 C.F.R. § 201.1 et seq.). This decision and order are entered into pursuant to the consent decision provision of the Rules of Practice applicable to this proceeding (7 C.F.R. § 1.138).

Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations in the complaint and specifically admits that the Secretary has jurisdiction in this matter. Respondent waives any and all rights or defenses the Respondent has or might have for the matter to be adjudicated in a federal district court in the first instance, including any associated right to a jury trial. Respondent waives oral hearing and further procedure, waives all rights to seek judicial review and otherwise challenge or contest the validity of this decision, including waiving challenges to the Administrative Law Judge's authority to enter this Decision and Order under the Administrative Procedure Act and the Constitution of the United States, and waives any action against the United States Department of Agriculture under the Equal Access to Justice Act of 1980 (5 U.S.C. § 504 et seq.) for fees and other expenses incurred by Respondent in connection with this proceeding or

any action against any USDA employee in their individual capacity. The parties consent and agree, for the purpose of settling this proceeding and for such purpose only, to the entry of this Consent Decision and Order.

Findings of Fact

1. Respondent Jerry Stokes is an individual whose mailing address is located in the State of Texas.

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

    a. Engaged in the business of, and operating as, a dealer subject to the provisions of the Act; and

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

Conclusions

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

Order

1. Respondent, his agents and employees, directly or through any corporate device, in connection with operations subject to the Act, shall cease and desist from:

    a. Failing to pay, when due, the full purchase price of livestock; and

    b. Issuing checks to livestock sellers without having sufficient funds in the bank upon which they were drawn to pay such checks when presented.

2. Respondent is suspended pursuant to 7 U.S.C. § 204 from any and all operations subject to the act and regulations, for a period of 7 days, to begin on August 10, 2025.

3. Respondent will increase his bond coverage by $10,000.00, from $115,00.00 to

$125,000.00.

4. In accordance with section 312 of the Act (7 U.S.C. § 213), Respondent is assessed a civil penalty in the amount of nine thousand dollars ($9,000.00), to be paid over the course of six months. The civil penalty is to be paid by certified check or money order made payable to the Treasurer of the United States and sent to USDA, AMS, General, PO Box 790257, St. Louis, Missouri 63179-0257.

The provisions of this Order shall become effective upon issuance. Copies of the decision shall be served upon the parties.

[redacted]

Jerry Stokes
Respondent

[redacted]

Jara Settles
Attorney for Respondent

MICHELLE MCMURTRAY
Digitally signed by MICHELLE MCMURTRAY
Date: 2025.07.28 07:39:18 -04'00'

Michelle McMurtray
Attorney for Complainant

Done at Washington, D.C.
July 29, 2025

Tierney Carlos
Tierney Carlos
Administrative Law Judge