



LIVESTOCK TITLE ISSUE BRIEF

Enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act

The 2008 Farm Bill called for the USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) to assert its authority regarding contract reform, arbitration and fairness in the livestock and poultry marketplace as granted by the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921 (PSA). GIPSA published a proposed rule that encompassed these requirements two years after the approval of the 2008 Farm Bill. GIPSA received more than 60,000 responses during a 150-day comment period but has yet to issue a final rule.

The Fiscal Year 2012 Agriculture Appropriations Bill approved by the House of Representatives would forbid GIPSA from completing the rulemaking process or from enforcing the final rule. Packer-producer organizations have spared no expense to delay the rule as long as possible.

Country of Origin Labeling

The 2008 Farm Bill required mandatory country-of-origin labeling (COOL) for meat, produce, and nuts by September 30, 2008. Despite a few legal challenges, COOL has been implemented, although pending decisions by the World Trade Organization may raise problems in later 2011.

Interstate Shipment of Meat

The 2008 Farm Bill created a program for the interstate sale and shipment of meat products from certain state-inspected processing facilities. Plants operating under state inspection programs were previously unable to sell or ship products for interstate commerce.

Interstate shipment of meat has been largely allowed in the wake of the last farm bill, although rule making processes are ongoing and the procedure for allowing state-inspected meat to cross borders has yet to be finalized in most parts of the country.

