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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

In re:
Robert Rawls) P & S Docket No. 18-0040
)
d/b/a Robert Rawls Livestock)
)
)
)
Respondent) Consent Decision

This proceeding was instituted under the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, as amended and supplemented (7 U.S.C. §§ 181 *et seq.*), by a Complaint filed by the Deputy Administrator, Packers and Stockyards Program, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA), United States Department of Agriculture, alleging that Respondent Robert Rawls, doing business as Robert Rawls Livestock (hereinafter Respondent) willfully violated the Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder (9 C.F.R. §§ 201.1 *et seq.*). This consent decision is entered pursuant to the consent decision provision of the Rules of Practice Governing Formal Adjudicatory Proceedings Instituted by the Secretary under Various Statutes (7 C.F.R. § 1.138).

Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations in paragraph I of the Complaint 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 consent decision.

Complainant agrees to the entry of this consent decision.

Findings of Fact

a) Robert Rawls Livestock (hereinafter RRL) was a sole proprietorship at the time of these

allegations, organized under the laws of the State of Mississippi with a business address of PO Box 3220, Brookhaven MS 39603¹.

- b) Robert Rawls (hereinafter Respondent Rawls) is an individual. Respondent Rawls's mailing address of [REDACTED]
- c) At all times material herein, Respondent RRL, under the direction, management, and control of Respondent Rawls:
1. Was a clearee of Midwest Feeders, Inc.; and
 2. Was registered and bonded with the Secretary of Agriculture as a dealer to buy and sell livestock in commerce.

Conclusion

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

Order

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

1. Engaging in deceptive and fraudulent practices by issuing fraudulent checks;
2. Engaging in deceptive and fraudulent practices by issuing fraudulent invoices;
3. Failing to pay, when due, for livestock purchases.

In accordance with 7 U.S.C. § 204, Respondent consents to a five-year suspension, to begin five days after the signing of this consent, whereby Respondent will not engage in any dealings under the Act. Respondent may, however, seek salaried employment by another registrant or packer, subject to complainant's verification of Respondent's employment status

¹ Robert Rawls Livestock is no longer in business.

with the registrant or packer, and complainant's research of the registrant or packer's history of compliance with the Act and regulations².

This Order shall have the same force and effect as if entered after full hearing. The provisions of this Order shall become effective upon issuance.

Copies of this decision and order shall be served upon the parties.

Done at Washington, DC

this 5th day of June, 2018

[Redacted Signature]

Acting Chief Administrative Law Judge

Channing D. Strother

[Redacted Signature]

Robert Rawls, d/b/a Robert Rawls Livestock.
Respondent

[Redacted Signature]

Matthew Scott Weiner
Attorney for Complainant

for

² Complainant has verified that, as of May 2018, Respondent is a salaried employee of Southwest Mississippi Farms, a registrant and packer currently in compliance with the Act and regulations. Complainant approves of this salaried employment, so long as Respondent and Southwest Mississippi Farms both continue to be in good standing and compliant with the Act and regulations.